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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you received your child tax credit check yet?

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INSIDE

Farm to Fork

The long road and winding road from farm to fork worsens food outbreaks.

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Post-Deluge

Floodwaters slowly recede in many parts of the northern Philippines.

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Art Installation

King Sisyphus, it turns out, had little on the folks at the L.A. County Museum of Art.

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'Just 10 pct. of dogs on Saipan have been tagged' PAGE 2
Health corporation absorbs close to 600 personnel. PAGE 5

Govt agencies closed every Friday

STORM DRAIN GETS MARKER

Coastal Resources Management enforcement officer John Delos Reyes gets up after marking a storm drain at the corner of Hyatt Regency Saipan and Coral Tree Avenue in Garapan. The first ever storm drain marking activity seeks to increase public awareness about stormwater pollution and to minimize its negative impact on Saipan's coral reefs. Inset, the blue-colored storm drain marker features Primo, the yellow crowned butterfly fish that is endemic to the CNMI. CLARISSA V. DAVID/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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» Due to changed '16 austerity hours' schedule in FY 2012

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most government agencies under the Executive Branch will now be closed every Friday instead of every-other-Friday as part of the fiscal year 2012's austerity measures that still include 16-hour work cuts biweekly and unpaid holidays.

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Fund: Only $400K received from govt in past 12 months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In the last 12 months, the NMI Retirement Fund only received about $400,000 in employer contributions for government employees—an amount that Fund administrator Richard Villagomez described as "way lower" than the amount needed by the pension program to pay its annual obligations to retirees.

Speaking at Thursday night's meeting with over 100 retirees, Villagomez said there is not enough money coming in to support the $63 million that's being paid out to members each year.

"We don't want to reduce your benefits,

See FUND on Page 4

Manglona recuses self from Fund's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A judge has yet to be named to handle the court action filed in federal court relating to the removal of the NMI Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recused herself from presiding over the case.

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen, counsel for Commonwealth Retirement Association board member Sapuro Rayphand, disclosed in court papers that a judge has yet to be designated to handle the case in the

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From $3.25 to $100 an hour

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Chamber to make public results of wage survey for free

Private and public employees in the CNMI are paid anywhere between $3.25 an hour and $100 an hour.

Many are also paid the current minimum wage of $5.05 an hour, while many others hover over $10 an hour.

But sometimes the job titles do not necessarily translate to high or low salaries.

For example, the lowest salary for "managers, all other" under management occupations is "$4.33 an hour," and the highest rate is $42.55 an hour.

Some companies also pay their "general and operations managers" as low as $4.66 an hour, and as high as $62.50 an hour.

These are among the results of the first prevailing wage survey conducted in the CNMI, courtesy of the

See $3.25 on Page 4

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Local

‘Just 10 pct. of dogs on Saipan have been tagged’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A report from the Saipan Mayor’s Office Dog Control Program shows that a total of 1,165 dogs have been tagged or registered in five different precincts from June 6 through Aug. 19.

Of the five precincts, Precinct 3 posted the highest number of registered dogs with 470. Precinct 3 is composed of the villages of Garapan, Navy Hill, Chinatown, San Jose, Chalan Laulau, Gualo Rai, and Puerto Rico.

Precinct 1 had a record of 366 registered dogs, Precinct 2 had 146, Precinct 4 had 98, and Precinct 5 had 85.

The report also showed that 245 dogs have been eradicated, and program manager Ray B. Lizama said that about 85 percent of these dogs were sick while 15 percent were stray dogs.

The program was also able to pick up 530 carcasses of dogs and cats throughout the island.

Through the program’s adoption component, 16 dogs were able to find new owners and stay in new homes.

Five dog bite incidents were also reported. Of the five, three were from Garapan, and one each in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa.

‘Only 10 percent’

Lizama noted that the total number of registered dogs reflects only 10 percent of the total number of dogs on island as estimated by the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service.

“If everybody just cooperate and follow the law, the numbers would have probably increased and be more,” Lizama told *Saipan Tribune*. “Unfortunately, people are just not abiding by the law.”

At present, Lizama said the program personnel are conducting dog tagging and registration at the Capital Hill Fire Station right next to the Legislature from Oct. 3 to 14.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, in a separate interview, urged the public, particularly dog owners, to check their dog tagging schedule at the office to know when and where they can register their dogs.

“If you register now, you’re only paying $10 [for a one-year license]. If we are done with the registration schedule and we start picking up dogs, they’re going to be charged more than the registration fee,” said Flores.

Although he doesn’t know the reason why only a few owners have registered their dogs, Flores hinted that dog owners may not have the money to pay for the fees or the time to go to the registration site.

“We try to simplify everything we could, for them not to bring their dogs and just pay for the fee. We try to make the process easy for the community,” added Flores.

Given their limited staff, Lizama emphasized that their priorities besides actual tagging is the eradication of sick and aggressive stray dogs in tourist areas and school zones.

While Lizama encourages dog owners to register their pets, he also reminded those who have already registered their dogs to comply with the program’s regulations, which include having these canines “controlled at all times.”

“I’ve seen a lot of dogs out there that are tagged and being let loose. Those would be impounded. Once those dogs are impounded, it’s going to cost them money to take their dogs back,” he warned.

According to Lizama, owners have the discretion to leave their dogs untied inside a fenced property. “If the place is not fenced, we recommend that it should be tied up.”

Lizama thanked dog owners who have already registered their dogs and urged those who haven’t done so to go to any of their registration sites.

For more information, call 234-6208 or email dogcontrolprogram.mos2011@yahoo.com.

FOR ALLEGEDLY HARASSING ALLEGED VICTIM, WITNESSES

Man in bush cutter theft case arrested anew

A man who was arrested in August on charges of stealing a bush cutter from a house in San Roque was arrested anew over the weekend for allegedly harassing the victim and witnesses.

Nobert Taman Rios, 32, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of contempt of court and disturbing the peace. His bail was initially set at $1,250 cash.

Detective John D. Cabrera stated in his report that based on his interview with the alleged victim in the bush cutter theft case, he learned that on Sept. 26, 2011, at 1:30pm the victim accompanied a couple to the Commonwealth Health Center.

As the alleged victim entered CHC by the FCC Clinic, she was surprised to see Rios arguing with the couple.

The alleged victim learned from the couple that Rios had told them to tell her [victim] not to go to court and that “whatever she started he would finish.”

The alleged victim also told police that on Sept. 2, 2011, while she was driving her vehicle south along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Tanapag, she saw Rios on the driver’s seat of a car that was parked in front of J&N Store.

As the alleged victim drove past the store, Rios allegedly gave her the middle finger.

Detective Cabrera said he also learned from the couple that Rios told the husband to back off and stop helping the alleged victim.

The couple are the landlords of the victim and witnesses in the theft case.

Rios allegedly blamed the husband for his detention, cussed at him, and called him names. Rios then allegedly turned to the wife, cussed at her, and called her a thief.

Detective Cabrera said at a hearing on Aug. 24, 2011 in the theft case, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed Rios to post bail.

Cabrera said among the terms and conditions of bail is that the defendant shall have no direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Rota Blue Triathlon
Nov. 13, 2010

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan (KFC), and the Rota Mayor’s Office are preparing to receive an international contingent of athletes to the tranquil and picturesque Northern Mariana Islands for the 18th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 12, 2011. Triathletes from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam, and Japan expected to take part in the annual Ironman event.

The triathlon features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5 km swim, followed by a 40 km rigorous biking course and a 10 km run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2.0 km swim, followed by a 90 km biking course and topped off with a 21 km run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

Starting time for both distances is 6:30 a.m. at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are $80 for A-type course solo competitors and $70 for each member in a team. The fee for the B-type course is $100. The entry fee includes and event t-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet at East Harbor.

Pre- registration will be held on Nov. 11, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar. The swim course inspection will be held the same day from 1-2 p.m. at the East Harbor. Final registration will take place that evening from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rota Resort & Country Club’s Sunset BBQ Tiki Tiki. The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held that evening from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Awards Banquet will be held after the race at 6:30 p.m. at East Harbor.

“Participation increases yearly because of the friendly environment the people of Rota create for our visitors,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Rota is beginning to enjoy some notoriety as a prime travel destination,” he added, noting that the event benefits everyone in Rota, especially the business community. The mayor also stated that a majority of the athletes visiting the island because of the triathlon show strong interest in returning.

The Rota Blue Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA, aimed at attracting visitors to the southern-most island in the Northern Mariana Islands chain. The annual event is widely anticipated by and supported by the local community.

For more information about the annual Triathlon, please contact Frank Tudela at 1.670. 664.3200/01 or ftudela@mymarianas.com, or contact Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1.670.532.0327.

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Fitial meets with House leadership on local casino bill's fate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met yesterday with House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and other members of the House leadership on a local casino bill he plans to veto this week due to constitutionality issues.

Fitial has until Friday to act on Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-44, which seeks to legalize casino gambling on Saipan. Without action after that date, the bill automatically becomes a local law.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor will veto the bill on or before Oct. 7.

Cabrera and the other members, who started arriving at the governor's office past 11am for the closed-door meeting yesterday, wanted to hear directly from the governor about his decision to veto the local bill.

Fitial, a delegate to the First Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention, said under the CNMI Constitution, "gambling is prohibited except as provided by CNMI law."

"A local law is not a CNMI law because that local law is only applicable on Saipan. It's not applicable [on] Tinian and Rota, so there's your definition of CNMI law," he said on Friday.

Torres said yesterday he would want something in black-and-white regarding the governor's opinion and that of Attorney General Ed Buckingham on the local measure.

"I want the personal opinion shared by the governor and the AGO about the unconstitutionality of the local gambling bill to be put in legal black and white. I officially asked for this legal opinion three weeks ago and [got] no reply from the attorney general," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

Torres' Sept. 12 letter to Buckingham, a copy of which was released by Torres yesterday, asked the attorney general whether his HLB 17-44 is a Commonwealth local law or a Commonwealth law.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), one of those who met with the governor, said the House leadership respects the governor's decision on the casino bill, knowing that he was a member of the First Constitutional Convention.

"The earlier recommendation to come up with a House casino bill is not a dead issue. Now we really need to come up with revenue generating bills to get the government employees out of the 64 work hours every two weeks and restore 80 hours biweekly," he said.

The House leadership, which supports legalizing casino bill on Saipan, would have wanted the governor to meet with the Senate leadership about its concerns on legalizing casinos on Saipan.

The Senate killed a House casino bill last year, saying the decision to legalize casinos on Saipan should rest with voters. The Senate also threatened to challenge the local casino bill in court.

Senators are working with Northern Marianas College students under the Current Issues class of Sam McPhetres to conduct a Nov. 4 special survey on Saipan voters' view about legalizing casino on Saipan. The Senate decided to go this way since the House failed to act promptly on a Senate bill calling for a special election to poll Saipan voters on the casino issue.

Casino proponent Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the governor should just sign the bill "and let somebody challenge it in court."

Saipan voters had twice rejected casino gaming on Saipan; the last one was during the 2007 elections.

NMC resumes 80 work hours

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

About 200 employees of the Northern Marianas College can now heave a sigh of relief after the institution reinstated their 80-hour biweekly work schedule starting Saturday, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, unless the college management makes further adjustments, the 80-hour work schedule will be maintained until the end of fiscal year 2012.

"Friday was the last day of the work-hour reduction and until NMC decides to do it again, we will keep the 80-hour schedule until end of the fiscal year," said Pangelinan.

NMC was appropriated a $5.2 million budget this fiscal year. The bulk of the amount will be used to pay for personnel salaries and wages for the next 12-month period, from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012.

On Friday, the Board of Regents and NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart praised the Legislature's decision to increase the college's budget, allowing it to comply with federal rules governing financial grants. Hart said the approved budget saved NMC from losing millions of grants for students.

Pangelinan said that Roger Madriaga, NMC's chief financial officer, will complete a comprehensive budget analysis in which possible changes can be made on the existing salaries of NMC personnel.

NMC employs about 200 people, including instructors, non-instructional faculty, staff, and administrators.

NMC began implementing austerity Fridays in July due to a series of budget cuts. From the original budget of $4.4 million, the amount was cut to $4.1 million.

DPL opposes transfer of ownership of Rota East Harbor to municipality

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta is opposed to a bill transferring the ownership of the Rota East Harbor from the Department of Public Lands to the Municipality of Rota, saying such action would run afoul with a 2010 Supreme Court ruling.

Babauta, in a letter to House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), said Senate Bill 17-66, Senate Substitute 1 seeks to "take land away from people of Northern Marianas descent and give it to Rota without compensation."

"This, I believe, would run afoul of the recent Supreme Court case DPL v. CNMI, 2010 MP 14," Babauta told Palacios in a letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

In this particular case, the Supreme Court held that the Legislature could not require DPL to pay land claims with proceeds that should be remitted to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

"Any bill that removes a revenue or potential revenue generating property away from DPL without compensation, therefore, would deprive MPLT of revenue in contravention of the Supreme Court's ruling. The bill seeks to do exactly that, and because of this, I cannot support it," Babauta said.

The DPL secretary said while he cannot support the bill in its current form, he is eager to work with the House Committee on Natural Resources to maximize the value of public lands.

Palacios's committee is reviewing Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) SB 17-66, SS1.

The bill seeks to require the Commonwealth Ports Authority to authorize the use of the Rota East Harbor solely for the exportation of locally made products.

The bill's introduction early this year came at a time when Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola's administration is pushing for the development of Rota's east harbor as a means to jumpstart the economy.

CPA objected to, and is now out of, the project. It said a $25 million funding for the project could be better used in completing the repairs at the existing west harbor instead of building another one in the east side.

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GOVT

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The Monday to Thursday work hours are, however, back to 7:30am to 4:30pm.

In fiscal year 2011, the work hours were changed to 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday on non-payday Friday, and from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Thursday and closed during "payday Friday."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued Friday a directive spelling out the work hours for fiscal year 2012 effective Oct. 3, saying the government will continue to observe 16 austerity hours per pay period to adhere to the $102 million spending level budgeted for each department/agency in Public Law 17-55.

"However, unlike [fiscal year] 2011, the 16 austerity hours will be observed every Friday," Fitial told all departments and agencies.

If a legally recognized holiday falls on a Friday, that day will be paid, provided the employee has annual leave hours and applies for annual leave.

"Also during this period, tardiness and excessive abuse of work schedules will not be tolerated," Fitial said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who presided over yesterday morning's closed-door Cabinet meeting on Capital Hill, discussed mainly the new work schedule for the new fiscal year that started on Oct. 1.

"[Yesterday's] Cabinet meeting was to prepare all the departments and activities for [fiscal year] 2012 and the bulk of it was Directive 282," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the meeting.

Demapan said the directive seeks to establish uniformity in the implementation of austerity hours.

He also said some agencies, including those providing critical services such as the departments of Public Health and Public Safety, are not necessarily required to close every Friday. He said the austerity Fridays depend on the functions of the agencies.

An Executive Branch employee who has been with the government since 1996 said she would prefer that the 16 austerity hours are "every Friday" rather than every-other-Friday so that employees will be able to better manage their time.

For example, some government employees would have a better chance of finding another job during the Fridays that the government offices are closed, and not just every-other-Friday.

'Up to the members'

The governor's directive does not cover the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said just like in previous years, it will be up to the individual members of the Senate to observe austerity hours or not.

"They are the expenditure authority," he said.

Members of the House of Representatives also decide on their own, whether to close on certain hours or days.

As for the Legislative Bureau's work hours, Manglona said this is something that he and Speaker Eli Cabrera will have to discuss.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated, talks with Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas right after a Cabinet meeting in the governor's conference room yesterday morning. Press secretary Angel Demapan said the meeting was mainly on the new austerity hours schedule for fiscal year 2012 to cope with the $102 million budget.

Hourly employees

Fitial, in his directive, reminded that Fair Labor Standards Act employment regulations are very specific with regards to time and attendance.

For the purpose of his memorandum, the governor pointed out that what is on the time card, unless noted otherwise, is the time worked, if one is overtime-eligible.

The governor said it has come his attention that "it has been common for employees to time in before the official office hours."

"I understand that some may say that the extra time is being volunteered, but this, too, is not allowable as the Commonwealth is prohibited by law from accepting voluntary unpaid services from its employees," he said.

Employees are prohibited from timing in or out outside the official office hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm.

The lunch period is one hour each day. Lunch hour will not be lengthened or shortened to make up for morning or afternoon time-in variances.

Fitial said timekeeping must be strictly enforced.

He also said the time on the time card will be calculated exactly each day, hours, and minutes, and added up at the end of the weekly pay period.

At the end of the second week, the end of the government pay period, the cumulative total will be calculated and rounded off to the nearest quarter hour.

The governor said all employees must pay special attention to avoid both absences and excess work time.

"Time missed in the first week of a pay period cannot be made up in the second week without approval. Unauthorized absences will be subject to disciplinary action," he said.

All expected overtime hours must also be approved in advance, except in cases of emergency situations.

Salaried, overtime-exempt employees

The governor's three-page directive says salaried and overtime-exempt employees are expected to work whatever hours are required in order to accomplish their duties and their portion of the Commonwealth's mission.

On many occasions, that involves work beyond one's normal work hours.

"As you are aware, you do not receive overtime or formal compensatory time-off," the governor said.

Salaried and overtime-exempt employees will not be deducted for minor tardiness or required to take an annual leave to make up the time, unless such tardiness has become a frequent occurrence.

The governor said that secretaries will address this personally if the situation should occur, while he will directly deal with Cabinet-level members should this occur.

"Any non-work absences in excess of one hour must be approved by each respective department's secretary/director, or in the case of Cabinet members, by me or the lieutenant governor," Fitial added.

To cope with the government's declining revenues, the Fitial administration has been implementing austerity measures. From the revised $122-million budget in 2011, the government has to live within its $102-million budget for 2012.

FUND

From Page 1

but the reality is we are hardly getting any financial support by way of contribution from the government. To give you an idea, in just the past 12 months, we have received only about $400,000 in employer contribution for local employees," he said.

Pursuant to a court judgment in 2009, the government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid employer contributions and the amount just keeps on growing.

Because of this delinquency, the agency has been forced to withdraw from its investments to cover its yearly expenses, amounting to $50 million to $75 million.

Villagomez also revealed that the Fund, which administers the pension program for retirees, recorded total contributions to its portfolio at only $147 million compared to the drawdown it has incurred—about $200 million.

He discounted claims that the government, pursuant to the court judgment, has been consistently remitting contributions to the Fund. Villagomez said that what the government has been regularly remitting was mostly the contribution for federally funded employees and not for local employees.

As of last week, the Fund's investment portfolio was down to $266 million. Because of the court set-aside amount of $100 million, the Fund has only about $166 million it can use to invest and pay for the pensions of members.

Villagomez appealed to the Commonwealth Retirees Association to organize itself and create a strong voice to save the pension system.

"Because you represent a large portion of the population, you have a strong voice and there's strength in numbers," he told retirees.

Fund officials and retirees described the program's current situation as an "emergency" and if no solution is identified soon, it will only result in more chaos.

Meantime, retirees are split whether to remove the Fund's lawsuit from Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo's sala to the federal court. While many favor the idea, others are hesitant due to "new adjustments" and a "new timeframe" that will involved in the processing of a new case.

Based on the Fund's audit report, the Fund paid a total of $560.7 million in benefits payments covering fiscal years 2001 through 2010. The Fund also showed an increase in the number of members from 1,461 in 2001 to now 2,996 active members.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

District Court following Manglona's recusal.

Saipan Tribune checked and confirmed yesterday that Manglona issued the order of recusal on Sept. 15, 2011.

In that order, Manglona cited that her husband, CNMI Supreme Court associate justice John A. Manglona, is a member of the Fund, so she must disqualify herself from participating in the matter.

Judge Manglona directed the clerk of court to refer the matter immediately to Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for reassignment to another judge.

Rayphand has asked the federal court to allow the transfer of the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government from the Superior Court to the District Court.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years since Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo rendered a $230 million judgment in the case, yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of that judgment.

The Fund is opposing the transfer. Fund legal counsel Braddock Huesman, in a motion to remand, asserted that Rayphand's notice of removal is defective as CRA is not a defendant in this matter and thus cannot transfer the case.

Even if the CRA is considered a defendant for removal purposes, Huesman said that not all defendants have agreed to the transfer.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently agreed with the Fund that the Fund's lawsuit should be remanded to the Superior Court.

$3.25

From Page 1

Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which contracted the Guam-based The Employers Council.

The Chamber received U.S. Department of the Interior funding to conduct the survey.

Besides listing the lowest and highest wage rate, the survey also lists the average and median rates, along with the standard deviation.

For example, the 142 registered nurses in the survey are paid $6.50 an hour to $20.46 an hour, while the average pay is $14.79 an hour and the median is $16.03 an hour.

A total of 8,676 employees in 408 jobs are represented in the survey results.

This is a historic first for the CNMI. For the first time, the CNMI now has prevailing wage survey results that reflect the current conditions on the islands and not the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, or Guam, which employers could use to, among other things, support applications for their employees' H1B visa or other Immigration and Nationality Act work visas.

Now free of charge

Contrary to its previous statements, the Chamber will now make available to the general public the results of its "2011 Survey of Wages and Salaries among Specified Jobs and Organizations in the CNMI."

The results will be posted on the Chamber's website, www.saipanchamber.com, as early as this week—free of charge to anyone—whether they participated in the survey or not.

Douglas Brennan, Chamber president, said yesterday that as a result of "tremendous demand for the Wage & Salary Report, SCC has decided to post the summary reports on its website as soon as the benefits portion of the survey is tabulated."

"This will be completed within one week. SCC initially wanted to get as many organizations participating as possible, but we've decided it isn't fair to deny those that need the data based upon whether they participated, or not," Brennan said in a statement.

Earlier, the Chamber said those companies and organizations that completed the survey will receive the wage and salary summary report, a list of organizations participating in the wage and salary survey, and a document titled, "Methods and Procedures of the Survey."

It also earlier said those who did not participate in the survey can obtain a copy from the Chamber if they pay $500.

A total of 8,676 employees in 408 jobs are represented in the survey results.

However, due to the provision that at least three organizations must report rates of pay for any given job, the rates of pay for only 7,518 persons were reported in only 188 jobs.

The Chamber distributed 452 survey forms, but 218 or nearly 50 percent were returned.

A number of companies did not participate because they were not going to apply for H1B visas or other types of work visas for their employees.

Job titles and wages

The survey covers 23 main clusters of job codes including management occupations; business and financial operations occupations; computer and mathematical occupations; architecture and engineering; legal; education, training and library occupations; healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; food preparation and serving related occupations; sales and related occupations; farming, fishing and forestry occupations; and production occupations.

"Grounds maintenance workers, all other" are paid the lowest rate of $3.25 an hour. The highest rate is $16.99 for the same job title.

"Family and general practitioners" under healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are paid $45 an hour to $100 an hour, the highest hourly rate shown in the survey.

Chief executives are paid $11 to $96.15 an hour.

Security guards are paid $4.55 an hour to $8.25 an hour, while waiters and waitresses are paid anywhere between $4.62 an hour and $7 an hour.

Accountants/auditors are paid $5.05 to $37.50 an hour.

The lowest paid construction manager is $5.05 an hour.

Elementary school teachers, except special education, are paid anywhere between $5.19 an hour and $22.60 an hour.

Teacher assistants are paid $4.62 to $9.70 an hour.

Maids and housekeeping cleaners are also paid anywhere between $3.55 an hour and $5.70 an hour.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, believes this survey report represents the majority of those employers who would apply for many of their employees fitting into specialized and professional jobs classifications where H-1B work visas will be their best available option under the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's authority.

Health corporation absorbs close to 600 personnel

» Villagomez orders status quo for all expiring contracts for transition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Corp., which began functioning independently on Oct. 1, has absorbed nearly 600 personnel from the Commonwealth Health Center and the Rota and Tinian health clinics, according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

He also ordered a status quo on all expiring contracts this month to assist in the transition period. Despite the status quo, however, Villagomez said that the corporation will still be trimming its staffing pattern to reduce expenditures.

Since Medicare requires a certain number of doctors, nurses, and auxiliary staff, the streamlining may have to be done within the corporation's administrative personnel, he said.

CHC had 24 physicians and about 130 nurses, while the Tinian Health Center has one doctor and 15 nurses. The Rota Health Center has two physicians and eight nurses.

"We have less than 600 personnel for now but we're going to cut down our personnel expenses and because Medicare requires a certain number of doctors and nurses, the part that we could probably control is the number of our administrative people. But for now, we asked a status quo of all the contracts including those expiring this month," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that some positions may not also be filled as part of the streamlining measure.

Because the corporation has only $5 million in seed money for its operation, Villagomez said they will have to decide on how many FTEs will be required for its efficient operation.

As of yesterday, the governor has yet to name appointees to the corporation board but Villagomez confirmed that names have been submitted for consideration.

Since Saturday, both Tinian and Rota health centers have been operating outside their municipality's jurisdiction. Villagomez said the "takeover" is not about "who has the full control," but to ensure that health care needs are being prioritized.

"The corporation took over because we want to ensure that supplies are in place in all health centers. We're also looking at those contracts that are expiring because they're no longer reflected in the budget as they are now part of the corporation," he said.

Due to the current financial state of the government and the declining economy, Villagomez said the transition period may be "slow" until fully stabilized. He also assured employees that the corporation's aim is to have them continue working and be paid on time.

"There should be no worry for both sides [Tinian and Rota personnel] because the status quo is to allow them to continue working while we begin processing their papers to be hired directly under this corporation. Until those papers are done, then they will become part of the corporation," he added.

With only $5 million in seed money as starting capital for the corporation, Villagomez already expects to face challenges and struggles.

As an autonomous corporation, the Department of Public Health takes control of CHC, the Rota Health Center, the Tinian Health Center, the Women's Clinic, the Children's Clinic, the Community Guidance Center, off-island medical referral, and other clinics.

Man in prison for sex abuse of minor faces immigration fraud

A man who is currently serving a prison term for sexually abusing a minor girl is facing a new criminal case in federal court for the alleged filing in 2009 of a false statement before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The indictment charged Steven Romie Aguon with one count of immigration document fraud. His initial appearance before the U.S. District Court for the NMI will be on Friday, Oct. 7.

According to the indictment filed by assistant U.S. attorney Beverly R. McCallum, Aguon made a false statement to USCIS in an application and document Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) he filed on Dec. 2, 2009.

In the supporting USCIS Form G-325A (Biographic Information), Aguon allegedly stated that he was married and that Linlin Song was his wife.

Song's marital status was material to USCIS' determination of Song's application for lawful permanent resident status.

Aguon then allegedly knew the statement was false since he had divorced Song on Feb. 23, 2009.

In October 2010, Superior Court then associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a two-year prison term on Aguon for sex abuse of a minor girl.

Aguon had pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree is still pending. Aguon was accused of sexually abusing two minors. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OPA: CNMI single audit for FY 2011 now being readied

Public auditor Michael Pai said the Office of the Public Auditor has arranged with the firm Deloitte to conduct the year-end audit procedures for the single audit of the CNMI for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2011.

In a Sept. 29 memo to government branches, agencies, departments and activity heads, public corporations and autonomous agencies, Pai requested full cooperation with the Deloitte audit staff.

"Timely completion of the CNMI's single audit helps the CNMI in obtaining federal funding," the public auditor said.

The CNMI's single audit also incorporates the various agencies' respective single audits.

"It is therefore imperative that the agencies' single audits be completed in time for Deloitte to incorporate them in the overall audit of the CNMI. If you have not already done so, please initiate procurement procedures to ensure the completion of your agency's audit in a timely manner," the public auditor added.

In 2010, OPA released a CNMI single audit for FY 2009, also conducted by Deloitte & Touche.

That audit report showed that the CNMI general fund's deficit rose 17.4 percent to $300.8 million from $256.4 million in FY 2008. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2011-CDA-06-RFP

LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds in the amount of $13,168,350 for the Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty Programs. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to $5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,) Civil Action No. 10-0253-CV
Plaintiff,
vs.
JESUS S. CEPEDA and YUFENG J. CEPEDA,) **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 8th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **28th day of October, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 1674 NEW-6-R1, (formerly part of Lot 1674 NEW-6, which was part of original Lot 1674, TD 351), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2043/91, the original of which was recorded on December 31, 1990, as Document No. 90-5133 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of September, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,) Civil Action No. 09-0407-CV
Plaintiff,
vs.
KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG,) **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 8th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **28th day of October, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 1414, located in Kagman III, Saipan, containing an area of 752 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 25, the original of which was recorded on October 10, 1996, as Document No. 96-2568 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

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DATED this 19th day of September, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Drain markers seek to minimize stormwater pollution

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Staff of the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, and Department of Public Works took part in the first ever storm drain marking activity in Garapan to increase public awareness about stormwater pollution and strengthen the agencies' efforts to minimize its negative impact on Saipan's coral reefs.

Equipped with maps, gloves, resin markers, curb marker adhesives, and steel wire brushes, 16 employees went out in twos and threes yesterday morning to mark storm drains along streets near the American Memorial Park.

Of the over 100 existing storm drains that have been identified in Garapan, some 23 were marked with blue labels that contains the message "Do Not Dump: Drains to Coral Reefs."

The labels, designed and created by Florida-based Das Manufacturing, Inc., also feature Primo, the yellow crowned butterfly fish that is endemic to the CNMI.

Lisa Eller, DEQ Coral Reef Initiative/Nonpoint Source Pollution Branch federal programs coordinator for outreach and publications, said the special adhesive applied to the storm drain markers can withstand weather conditions on the island so it won't be easily removed.

Eller said DEQ is spearheading the project and has partnered with DPW, which has been tasked to clear storm drains of debris in the next few months, and with CRM, which is assigned to recruit volunteers and conduct education and outreach.

"We wanted to get together as staff to mark the drains but eventually, the intent is to bring in community volunteers," said Eller in an interview after the activity.

Eller said the purpose of the storm drain marking project is to educate the public about storm drains "and the fact that everything that goes into storm drains goes untreated into the ocean."

"Pollutants that are going into the storm drains are contributing to the impaired water quality of our oceans," Eller told *Saipan Tribune*. "If there are sediments coming down, they smother the coral reefs. If there's chemical pollutants, they all have their different negative effects but generally, all the pollutants that go down are harming the coral reefs in different ways."

CLARISSA V. DAVID/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Environmental Quality Non Point Source Pollution Program manager Fran Castro and education and outreach coordinator Jihan Buniag apply adhesive on the storm drain marker that will be placed on the storm drain in front of Victoria Hotel across the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday morning. Inset, the blue-colored storm drain marker features Primo, the yellow crowned butterfly fish that is endemic to the CNMI.

Eller said that Garapan—the island's business and tourist hub—houses a lot of concrete buildings and business establishments that become sources of pollutants to the nearby ocean area, the Micro Beach, thereby contributing to the "impaired" quality of its water based on their laboratory tests.

"We want to reduce the amount of pollution load into these beaches here," she added.

DEQ education and outreach coordinator Jihan Buniag, who participated in yesterday's activity, believes that the storm drain marking will warn the community not to dump anything into the drain. "To inform and educate, that's what we're really trying to do here, especially the restaurants and all businesses in Garapan."

CRM enforcement officer John San Nicolas said the storm drain marking is a "good thing" that would impact the island's coral reefs in a positive way.

The project is funded by a $12,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program. Eller said the grant includes not just the markings but also the printing of outreach materials that will be made available to the public in the next two weeks.

"We will also try to work with business establishments in Garapan to create promotions to support pollution reduction measures," she added.

Eller encourages the community to volunteer for the storm drain marking project. To volunteer or for more information, call DEQ at 664-8500 and look for Olivia Tebuteb.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its October general membership luncheon meeting tomorrow Oct. 5, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am and the general membership meeting will begin at noon.

The SCC October meeting keynote speaker will be Bob Jones, decades an investor on Saipan, in Guam and throughout Micronesia. Jones is president and CEO for many local businesses, including Triple J Enterprises and his new venture, Sandy Beach Homes. Also on the meeting's agenda will be a wrap-up presentation on the recently concluded USCIS educational presentations and the just released SCC 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries and Benefits among Jobs and Organizations in the CNMI.

The lunch will cost $15 for members, $20 for guests and non-members. ***(SCC)***

Kagman High sets Open House night

Kagman High School is inviting all KHS parents to attend our 2nd Annual Open House night on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 5pm to 7pm. This year is an accreditation year and we need parent participation more than ever! The event begins on time so don't be late! Parent orientation is in the cafeteria and starts at 5pm. There will be free refreshments and free raffles at the end of this event. You must be present to win! Students will earn class points if their parent participates. Class points will be added to the coveted Class of the Year title. Students can also earn extra credit in their classes for getting their parents to participate. ***(PR)***

Council seeks input on whether to send delegation to Pacific arts fest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is encouraging all registered traditional and visual artists as well as performing groups in the CNMI to attend a meeting at 2pm on Thursday, Oct. 6, at their office on Capital Hill.

Executive director Angel S. Hocog said the meeting aims to involve these artists and performers in deciding whether or not the CNMI, through the Arts Council, will send a delegation to the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts slated for July 1-14, 2012 in Solomon Islands.

Established by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 1972, the Festival of Pacific Arts is a traveling festival hosted by a different country in Oceania every four years to stem erosion of traditional cultural practices by sharing and exchanging cultures at each event.

This year's theme is "Culture in Harmony with Nature."

"The Arts Council would like to get the views and opinions of our local artists and performers in sending a delegation to represent the CNMI in this very important event that encourages the exchange and perpetuation of traditional arts and cultures among island nations and territories," said Hocog.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that the last time the CNMI sent a delegation to the Festival of Pacific Arts was in 2004 in Koror, Palau.

Should the CNMI fail to send a delegation next year, Hocog said it will be the second time that the Commonwealth is not represented in the Festival of Pacific Arts. The CNMI also missed the 10th year of the festival held in Pago Pago, American Samoa in 2008.

"Given our local government's budget limitations, the burden of funding for our participation in this significant festival lies with our talented artists and performers. It is incumbent upon us all to make the decision as the festival draws near," added Hocog.

For more information about the festival or the meeting, visit the Arts Council office next to the Post Office in Capitol Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School's (SFC) Anthony G. Lukeala, far left, and Marianas High School's (SFC) Juan P. Lairopi and KHS (MSG) James R. Burke, far right, flank KHS and MHS cadets after the cleanup.

KHS, MHS cadets team up for DEQ cleanup

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets of Kagman High School and Marianas High School teamed up with the Division of Environmental Quality in cleaning up the Marine Beach on Saturday, Oct. 1.

This was the first time that these three organizations came together to perform a community service project.

DEQ provided the trash bags, rubber gloves, water, and juices for the 38 volunteers from the two JROTC units.

The cadets collected two truckloads of debris to be hauled away.

"This is a team work at its best and we hope to work together more to accomplish other projects for our community," said KHS' MSG James R. Burke. "This teaches our young citizens to volunteer to help others and to keep our islands clean and beautiful." ***(PR)***

NMC finally sets the ball rolling on apprenticeship program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart reported to the Board of Regents that the institution has started its long-delayed apprenticeship program, an initiative that was signed into law almost five years ago.

Hart, along with a contingent from the college and a few individuals outside NMC, recently attended a weeklong training in Hawaii—all focusing on the apprenticeship program.

The president revealed that there are 985 recognized apprenticeship occupations around the U.S. and insular areas and implementing the long-delayed program in the Commonwealth at this time is key in developing the local workforce needed by the private and government sectors.

"For all of us here in the CNMI, apprenticeship is the key direction that we need to be going. We're starting our aggressive efforts here because we believe this could be the better time especially with the recent ruling on contract workers," said Hart, alluding to the federal takeover of the local immigration and labor systems which aimed to cut the number of foreign workers on island by 2014.

It was in 2007 when a law was enacted creating a U.S.-registered apprenticeship program at NMC to develop a skilled local workforce and to reduce the Commonwealth's reliance on nonresident workers. The implementation of this program was delayed due to the absence of funding, amounting to $1.5 million.

Hart is optimistic that by providing the necessary trainings, NMC could soon enforce the program efficiently and successfully.

Meantime, the president announced that "actingship" for the presidency will be rotated among members of her leadership team.

The intention, she said, is to give each member the opportunity to experience the challenge and to develop their leadership skills. By rotating the acting president position, Hart said NMC will not loose potential leaders in the future.

In acknowledging the important contribution and role of the NMC Foundation, the president said she is also working on conducting a joint meeting between the Board of Regents and foundation directors to affirm both commitments and direction for NMC.

'Changes in Medicaid, Medicare in the offing'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Office on Aging director Rose Mondala informed congregates of the Aging Center last week about possible changes in Medicaid and Medicare programs following a visit from the programs' representatives.

Medicaid is a federal health program for low-income U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents and is jointly funded by state and federal governments while Medicare provides health insurance coverage to people who are aged 65 and over; to those under 65 who are permanently physically disabled or who have a congenital physical disability; or to those who meet other special criteria.

"I'm giving you a little heads up that there might be changes coming down but we don't know yet what these changes are for sure," Mondala told some 50 senior citizens on Thursday.

Mondala told *Saipan Tribune* that she met with one official from Medicaid and two from Medicare who all visited the Aging Office last Sept. 28.

According to Mondala, the Medicaid and Medicare officials "just checked" on the *man'amko* at the center and "visited the hospital and every clinic on island."

Mondala could not, however, provide details on what actually transpired during her meeting with the officials. She did point out, though, that there's "no need to panic" among senior citizens who benefit from either or both programs.

"We just have to wait. The feds are moving in slowly but surely. I don't want you to panic. They will let us know later of any changes," said Mondala.

As she addressed the senior citizens last week, Mondala asked who among them were green card holders. Some seven hands shot up and the director encouraged them to apply for U.S. citizenship if they have been green card holders for at least five years.

Learn how to submit parole-in-place applications

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. is hosting a workshop on parole-in-place on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, at American Memorial Park. The workshop will begin at 1pm, and a repeat session will begin at 3pm. It is for parole-in-place for ONLY those foreign nationals related to U.S. citizens: namely those who are 1) spouses or widows/widowers of citizens or 2) parents of citizens or 3) children of citizens of the United States of America.

Although MLSC will conduct the workshop to help people understand the process and put together their applications, no individual legal advice will be given. MLSC will not be accepting cases or filing on behalf of those who attend the workshops. The purpose of the session is simply to help get information out and help people utilize the process as successfully as they can.

Each workshop will be conducted in English. Each workshop is limited by the capacity of the auditorium at American Memorial Park. If there are no auditorium seats available, the sessions will be closed. Do NOT bring children to the workshop. Children may not be left unattended in the Park's museum or gift shop. For more information, contact the Marianas Office at 234-6243. ***(PR)***

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Members of the Palauan Community Association share a meal at the Laly 4 Chalan Kanoa Beach in celebration of the 17th Palau Independence Day on Oct. 1. The occasion also saw the election of new officers for the association's Youth Club. PCA, an organization of Palauans living in the CNMI, joined Palauans throughout the world in celebrating the 17th Palau Independence Day with the theme "Kelbael Keruul: Sustainable and Productive Economy."

FHB, *Guam Business* to present 7 students with $16K scholarships

MAITE, Guam—In recognition of their high scholastic achievement, seven students have been selected to be the 2011 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year scholarship recipients.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Mariana Islands: University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. The selection committee has chosen three students from UOG, one student from GCC and three students from NMC.

The names of the seven scholarship recipients will be announced at two separate scholarship award presentations. The Guam scholarship awards presentation will be held today, Oct. 4, while the Saipan scholarship awards presentation will be held tomorrow, Oct. 5.

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2011 Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 30. The event was attended by hundreds of supporters of the program. The event raises funds for these scholarships and recognizes women who make a difference in business. The 2011 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient is Joyce Q. Crisostomo, executive director of Cars Plus. ***(PR)***

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.
is looking for:

Nurse Supervisor (1 position) - $15.00 - $18.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three years as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule

Registered Nurse (5 positions) - $13.00 - $15.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Licensed Practical Nurse (1 position) - $7.00 – 9.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI LPN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Hemodialysis Technician (7 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical school in health care related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experience-preferred
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Building Maintenance & Repair (2 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, and security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

Water Treatment Technician (2 positions) - $6.00 - $8.00 an hour
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. The ideal employee will posses:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II preferred.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing and hemodialysis techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels for hemodialysis.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing and hemodialysis techniques especially when working with pvc.
- Extensive experience of disposal of hazard waste per protocol.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
  Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Solar panel maintenance/construction with solester inverter experience.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to
Saint Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. *at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.*

Man in driver's license scam faces new charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly conspired with others to lure five Chinese nationals to the CNMI for non-existent jobs was indicted in federal court Thursday.

The Chinese nationals—four females and one male—were allegedly promised work visas upon arriving on Saipan, salaries of over $1,000 per month, and work as a waitress, cleaner, or taxi driver.

Wei Lin was indicted on 18 charges, including foreign labor contracting fraud conspiracy, foreign labor contracting fraud, and alien smuggling conspiracy.

A jury recently found Lin guilty in a fraudulent driver's license case. His sentencing will be on Oct. 5, 2011. Lin has been in custody for almost six months now.

In the new case, the federal court appointed attorney Michael Norita Evangelista as Lin's counsel.

When asked for comment about the new case, Evangelista pointed out that even if a person is found guilty in an old case, that person still has a constitutional right to be presumed innocent in a new case.

"Until we receive all the facts and police reports then we will be better able to address the specifics of this new case," Evangelista said.

Evangelista's co-counsel, Joseph Norita Camacho, said if on its face the indictment is true, then why weren't the alleged victims also arrested? "Before a person exits the airport, a person has to indicate the visit is either business or pleasure. For non-U.S. citizens it specifically states that entry is not for employment purposes," Camacho said.

Evangelista and Camacho also served as counsel for Lin in the "old" case.

According to the indictment filed Thursday by assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler, Lin, while in the CNMI, called one or more of the five Chinese nationals in China in July and August 2010 to encourage them to come to the CNMI.

In August and September 2010, Lin, with help of others, picked up the five Chinese nationals at the Saipan International Airport.

Shortly after their arrival, Lin collected over $4,000 from each of the five Chinese nationals. Lin then made the four women sign a contract.

On Sept. 10, 2010, Lin gave the four women jobs that were different from what had been described to them while they were in China.

Lin never gave a job to the male Chinese.

The five flew to the CNMI from China and obtained temporary parole into the CNMI as tourists on Aug. 4 and 17 and Sept. 7, 2010.

Lin and other members of the conspiracy allegedly instructed one or more of the five to tell immigration officers that they were arriving as tourists.

Lin and other members of the conspiracy allegedly informed the five that they would be able to work in the CNMI and obtain work visas after their arrival.

CNMI Archivist participates in nat'l conference

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the CNMI's archival operations and to preserve the historic records of the region, the Northern Marianas College recently sent CNMI Archivist John Cook to the annual meeting of the Council of State Archivists. The trip was financed by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and was the first time that a representative from the CNMI participated in this national meeting.

The Council of State Archivists, or CoSA, is an umbrella group for the state and territorial archivists of the United States. The annual meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, was a joint event with the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators.

According to Cook, CoSA very warmly received the Northern Mariana Islands into its folds. At the request of Vicki Walsh, CoSA's executive director, Cook brought a CNMI flag to add to the flags of the other states and territories of the United States at the conference.

NMC

CNMI Archivist John Cook, right, shakes hands with Kentucky's State Archivists board of directors president Barbara Teague. Cook attended the recently held annual CoSA meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

"The Council of State Archivists has been extraordinarily helpful and welcoming," Cook said. "Vicki Walsh, CoSA's executive director, and everyone involved with the organization have been nothing shy of wonderful."

At the conference, Cook met with state and territorial archivists from around the United States and made connections that will be invaluable to the CNMI Archives at the Northern Marianas College. Conference events included sessions on such topics as Preserving the American Historical Record Act (legislation for federal funding for state and local archives), how various jurisdictions handle gubernatorial records, and issues pertaining to digital and electronic collections.

"Attending this conference has been extraordinarily valuable and useful," Cook added. "Establishing ties with CoSA will provide significant long-term benefits to the CNMI Archives, to the Northern Marianas College, and to the Commonwealth." ***(NMC)***

Palau's green home model grabs regional financing attention

KOROR, Palau—Thirteen financing institutions from the Pacific region have gathered in Koror this week to learn from Palau's successful green home energy model.

The four day workshop titled "Home loans for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workshop," is a first to be held in the region and will inform the 13 members of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific on how Palau has been implementing its energy home loan program.

"For the past three years, the National Development Bank of Palau has been running a very good home loan program that promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency," said Anare Matakiviti, coordinator of the Energy Programme at IUCN Oceania Regional Office. "In the next few days we will inform ADFIP members how Palau is running their program and in doing so we hope that they will replicate the program in their own countries"

The energy home loan program targets new residential and commercial buildings including tourism outlets and so far has benefited not only the customers but also the wider Palau economy through new businesses, employment creation, less diesel use, and a renewed national interest into energy efficiency measures.

The workshop was opened yesterday morning by Palau President Johnson Toribiong.

The workshop was organized by the ADFIP Secretariat and IUCN Oceania Regional Office with assistance from the Center for Development Enterprise Regional Office in Suva, the SPREP PIGGAREP project and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's North REP project. ***(IUCN)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to my sweet brother, Wilfred "Kwek" Quitugua Lizama and his lovely wife, Becky-Lynn Lizama, who will both be celebrating their birthdays this week. I love you both very much. Though you will be celebrating miles apart, we know your hearts remain as one. We love you both always, si Elang, Moms and Dads, Quitugua-Lizama, Palacios-Cruz, and most especially, your loving son Brandon Lee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 4, 1999

Northwest's B747 flies to Saipan

Tourism officials expressed hope over the weekend that the arrival of Northwest Airlines' B747 would signal the improvement of the CNMI's market share in Japan. "It may take a while to replace the seats left by Continental but we're at least moving, " said Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Dave M. Sablan. Claiming low traffic, Continental Micronesia has removed all its direct flights from various cities in Japan to Saipan which Japanese tour operators said would severely hinder efforts to bring in visitors to the island. Northwest decided to upgrade its aircraft from DC 10 to B747 as a result of the 50 percent reduction in departure and arrival fees under the Airlines Incentive Program of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Senate to declare Tinian seat vacant

A resolution is expected to be adopted by the Senate urging the Board of Elections to hold special polls on Tinian after former Sen. Herman M. Manglona resigned in the wake of his conviction on bribery charges in federal court. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he will file the resolution during a session to be held likely this week to resolve immediately the fate of the seat left vacant with Manglona's departure. But he explained the resolution will not mention the circumstances prior to his resignation, noting the Senate has to declare only that the seat is vacant. The embattled former senator resigned from the Legislature last month after pleading guilty to the charges filed against him in connection with federal projects he administered while he was mayor of Tinian.

Oct. 4, 2000

DD Council to purchase $50K state-of-the art van

The Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council has recently been granted authority to procure a $50,000 state-of-the art accessible vehicle envisioned to alleviate barriers that hamper the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in regular community events. DDC Executive Director Tom Camacho said once the van is purchased, the council will turnover its operation to another company or organization. Funds for the major purchase was received by the council from the community block grant approved by Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. "We will be turning the key over to a bus operator to provide the services which they will handle on an on call basis. This would support individuals with disabilities who do not have access to transportation," said Mr. Camacho.

OIA vows to help CNMI on air transport woes

The U.S. interior department's Office of Insular Affairs has pledged to continue assisting the Commonwealth government find solution to its air transportation concerns, in fresh efforts to revive the islands' tourism industry. Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza has recently reiterated OIA's commitment to help beef up the CNMI's efforts to improve air transport services to and from the Northern Marianas. In an interview, Mr. Palacios said the OIA chief assured CPA that the issue of improved air access to the Northern Marianas will be consistently monitored through the Inter Agency Group on Insular Affairs. He said Mr. Aranza's statement came in the wake of CPA's concerns on the exclusion of Saipan in the list of destinations for the second, short runway at the Narita Airport in Japan.

Oct. 4, 2001

Lightning strikes twice for jet fuel tax bill

Remember House Bill 12-359 and what happened to it? The same curse that haunted the bill appears to be the same doom befalling House Bill 12-416. Both bills have similar goals-to realign 100 percent of the aviation fuel tax to the Marianas Visitors Authority as additional supplemental budget for promotions. In the earlier case of House Bill 12-359, the Senate had amended the bill, creating MVA deputy marketing directors for Tinian and Rota. The House of Representatives rejected the amendment and threw it back to the Senate, which then responded by reinserting the amendment. In exasperation, the House adopted the amendment and transmitted the bill to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who vetoed the bill, saying that creating deputy marketing directors for Tinian and Rota would create duplication of functions. The Senate responded by overriding the veto, paving the way for its passage into law.

Extension of parole for foreign workers in the CNMI

» USCIS advises foreign workers in the CNMI to extend parole

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

It is critical that foreign workers maintain a lawful status so they may be petitioned for CW Transitional Worker status or another status under the INA. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services advises all people who were paroled into the CNMI and whose Arrival-Departure Record, Form I-94, has expired or is expiring to apply for an extension of their parole to Jan. 31, 2012.

Anyone paroled into the CNMI must keep both parole and work authorization (if employed) current. This does not include those who have been paroled into the United States solely as tourists. Tourists are not eligible for extension of parole.

Q. Who should apply for extension of parole?

A. People who already have parole and an I-94 document can apply for an extension of parole. People who have parole should look at the expiration date on their I-94 and, based upon that date, consider applying for parole. This includes those with any parole that is:

- Expired; or
- Expiring on or before Nov. 28, 2011.

Q. What if my employer is petitioning for me to continue working after Nov. 28, 2011?

A. If your parole will expire before Jan. 31, 2012 you should request parole extension.

Q. Is everyone with an expired or expiring parole eligible to be considered for extension of parole?

A. No. Russian and Chinese visitors who have been paroled into the United States solely as tourists are not eligible for extension of parole.

Q. Why should I apply for extension of parole?

A. People who were paroled due to an expired permit must keep parole and work authorization current in order to maintain a legal presence in the United States and be allowed to work. Anyone who would like to be sponsored for a grant of CW status in the CNMI must have a lawful status in the CNMI when the employer files the Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker, Form I-129CW.

Q. For how long will parole be extended?

A. USCIS will extend parole to Jan. 31, 2012.

Q. What must be included in this parole request?

A. You must submit the following information to request parole extension:

- A letter or affidavit signed by you requesting the extension. Include your complete P.O. Box mailing address and telephone number;
- A copy of a valid identity document, such your passport biographic page (with photo, date of birth and expiration date);
- A copy of your I-94 (front and back);
- A copy of your umbrella permit (if you have one); and
- A letter from your employer verifying his or her intention to continue your employment (if currently employed).

Seal all these items in one envelope and clearly write on the outside of the envelope:

- Your name;
- "PAROLE EXTENSION;" and
- The expiration date of your parole.

We recommend that you keep a copy of all documents for yourself.

Q. Where should I submit my parole extension request?

A. Please see the table to below for instructions on how to submit your parole extension request.

If you are on Saipan

You can drop off your parole extension request at the USCIS Office in Saipan. These requests will be accepted only on a drop-off basis. When you drop off your request at the USCIS Office, no one will be available to answer questions about it unless you have an InfoPass appointment.

If you are on Rota or Tinian

You must mail your request to:
DHS-USCIS
Sirena Plaza, Suite 100
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
ATTN: PAROLE EXTENSION – CNMI

Q. Can someone apply for an extension of parole if they have never had parole status?

A. No. If you have never been granted parole by USCIS, you are not eligible to request an extension for parole. This is NOT for first-time parole in place. If you need parole and have never had it before, visit our website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi for more information.

Q. Is there a fee to apply for parole?

A. There is no filing fee to obtain parole in this situation.

Q. Does the employer or worker apply for parole?

A. The worker applies for parole.

Q. Can I work once parole is granted?

A. Parole gives someone legal status to stay in the CNMI but does not provide work authorization. You can continue to work under your current umbrella or other work permit until Nov. 27, 2011. If you are the beneficiary of a CW petition filed on or before Nov. 28, 2011 by your current employer, you may continue to work under your permit until a decision is made on your petition. If you have been granted a USCIS Employment Authorization Document (EAD), you must obtain a renewal of that document before it expires in order to continue to lawfully work.

Q. Can I travel anywhere in the United States?

A. No. Parole of individuals in this situation does not include travel to any other part of the United States. If you need to travel, you will have to contact USCIS to apply.

Q. What is the difference between "advance parole" and "parole?" Do I need an extension of an expired advance parole?

A. Unlike parole, advance parole is not an actual grant of parole status in the CNMI. Advance parole is advance permission granted by USCIS to leave the CNMI for a foreign place and return to the CNMI to be paroled back in. A foreign worker with an advance parole is issued the actual parole when returning back into the CNMI from foreign travel by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspector at the port of entry. An advance parole that expires before it is actually used to depart from and return to the CNMI does not need to be extended in order to continue lawful presence in the CNMI. However, advance parole is no longer valid for a parole back into the CNMI once expired. If the foreign worker still wishes to travel and be paroled back into the CNMI, he or she must obtain a new advance parole.

Another way to obtain parole is through a grant of parole by USCIS in the CNMI. This is typically referred to as "parole in place." Parole is documented by the issuance of a Form I-94. It is this parole—either issued by CBP based upon return from travel based on an advanced parole from USCIS, or a parole in place by USCIS—that must be kept up to date.

Q. Where can I find more information about parole in the CNMI?

A. USCIS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits. For more information, visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi. ***(USCIS)***

Parole for transitional worker dependent students turning 18

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

If you are a foreign worker in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who will be the beneficiary of an employer's petition for transitional worker (CW-1) status and have a child who is a secondary or high school student who will turn 18 this school year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may be able to grant parole to your child. If you petition for a child who is 17 years old to receive CW-2 status and that child turns 18 this school year, the child will lose his or her CW-2 status upon turning 18 and would no longer have status to study. You cannot petition for CW-2 status for a child who is already 18 years old. If your child is present under an umbrella permit or other authorization issued by the CNMI government before Nov. 28, 2009, that permit will expire Nov. 27, 2011. Therefore, USCIS will offer the parole to your child so that he or she can finish the school year in legal status.

USCIS grants parole on a case-by-case basis and has used parole extensively in the CNMI since 2009 as needed to assist with the transition to U.S. immigration law. While use of parole will no longer be necessary for most foreign workers, USCIS will continue to consider parole in specific situations, including for CNMI permanent residents and their immediate relatives and the immediate relatives of FAS nationals. USCIS will also consider granting parole for secondary/high school students who are actively attending classes before Nov. 27, 2011 and are already or will turn 18 this school year.

Q. If I will be a CW-1 worker, can my foreign national child apply for CW-2 status?

A. Yes, your foreign national child can apply to receive CW-2 status if he or she is under 18 years old. There is no need to apply for children who are U.S. citizens. However, if your 17-year-old child is studying in a secondary/high school and will turn 18 during this school year, an application for that child to receive CW-2 status is not advisable if you would like the child to complete the school year in the CNMI. Instead, you should request parole for that child.

Q. Who can apply for parole to study?

A. Only those children of CW-1 workers who are 18 years old or are 17 years old and will be turning 18 THIS school year, who are studying in a secondary/high school in the CNMI can apply for parole.

Q. Is there a fee to apply for parole?

A. There is no filing fee to request parole in this situation.

Q. What must be included in this parole request?

A. The following must be submitted as part of the request for parole for your child:

- A letter from the child's school indicating that 1) your child is a student; 2) when the school year ends; and 3) when the child will be graduating.
- A copy of your employer's Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker, Form I-129CW for you as a CW-1 worker or receipt notice for the petition.
- A completed Form G-325, Biographic Information.
- A copy of a valid identity document such as a passport (biographic page) or birth certificate.
- Evidence of the child's legal presence in the CNMI at the time of application, such as a valid umbrella permit.
- A letter from you requesting parole for your child, including your complete P.O. Box mailing address and telephone number.

Q. Can my child work once parole is granted?

A. Parole gives your child legal status to stay in the CNMI so that your child can study but parole does not give permission to work.

Q. Can my child travel anywhere in the United States with parole?

A. No. Parole for students who will be turning 18 this school year will be granted for the CNMI only and does not allow travel to any other part of the United States. If your child needs to travel, you will need to contact USCIS to apply.

Q. How long is parole valid for?

A. Parole will be issued for up to one year, depending upon the specifics of your case.

Q. Why should I apply for parole for my child who is studying if he/she is already 18 or will turn 18 this school year?

A. Children who are in secondary/high school who will turn 18 years old this school year would lose their lawful status. A child who is 18 years old is not eligible for CW-2 status. Your child will need parole to maintain a legal presence in the United States and be allowed to study.

Q. What if my child already has been paroled?

A. If your child already has been paroled, as evidenced on an Arrival- Departure Record, Form I-94, then USCIS will consider extending the parole through the end of the school year. All paroled foreign nationals should ensure that their paroles remain in effect, in order to remain lawfully in the CNMI.

Q. Why can't I get CW-2 status for my child now, and then get parole when the child turns 18?

A. Parole cannot legally be granted to any person who has been admitted in CW-2 or any other U.S. nonimmigrant status.

Q. When can I apply for parole for my 17- or 18-year-old child who is studying in secondary/high school in the CNMI?

A. You can apply for parole for your 17- or 18-year-old child who is studying, when your employer applies for you as a CW-1, or any time after that before your child's status expires. You may also apply for CW-2 status for other dependents at this time. As the employer's CW-1 petition cannot be filed before Oct. 7, 2011, requests for this student parole or CW-2 status also cannot be filed before that date.

Q. Can my child apply for student parole before I am granted CW-1 status?

A. Yes, as long as the CW-1 petition for you has been filed by your employer. However, if parole is granted for your child, it may be subject to revocation if the CW-1 petition is denied.

Q. How should I submit my parole request?

A. Please see the table to below for instructions on how to submit your parole request.

If you are on Saipan

You must make an InfoPass appointment at the USCIS Office in Saipan through www.uscis.gov and bring all the documents listed above and your child to the appointment.

If you are on Rota or Tinian

You must mail your request to:
DHS-USCIS Sirena Plaza, Suite 100
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
ATTN: STUDENT PAROLE – CNMI

Q. I have a child who is 18 or older and is studying in college in the CNMI. Can he or she apply for parole?

A. No. A foreign national who is in college must apply for student status and attend a school that accepts international students. To see if a school is Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) approved, go to www.ice.gov/sevis/map/approvedschoolsmap.htm.

Q. Can my child who is in secondary/high school obtain F nonimmigrant student status?

A. This may be an available option in some cases, particularly those involving private schools. However, the F student category is primarily intended for those with foreign residences, and the law provides certain strict limitation on the use of F status to attend any public secondary/high school.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. USCIS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits. For more information about parole in the CNMI, please visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi. ***(USCIS)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Was Einstein wrong?

If the speed of light is a constant in the universe, as Albert Einstein famously predicted, then so is this: Researchers always will try to prove Einstein was wrong.

The latest in a long line of challengers: scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN.

Last week they startled physicists around the world—and a few nonphysicists, too—by declaring they had recorded subatomic particles called neutrinos traveling faster than the speed of light. Not by much: 60 billionths of a second.

But a cornerstone of Einsteinian theory is that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, about 186,000 miles a second.

If that is wrong, and something can outstrip light speed, then 100-plus years of physics—everything from the subatomic to theories of how the universe evolved—suddenly is up for revision. The universe doesn't work the way we thought it did. We don't really know what we thought we knew.

"It would be amazing, everyone would be jumping up and down like crazy," Cal Tech theoretical physicist Sean Carroll told us. "It would certainly be the most surprising discovery in the last 100 years."

Reality check: The CERN experimenters are probably wrong. These experiments are exceedingly difficult to perform and precision often eludes researchers. "There is a chance that they're right, but a very small chance," Carroll said.

The CERN team is cautious about its claim. "The finding is so startling that, for the moment, everybody should be very prudent," a CERN spokesman said, tiptoeing past a graveyard full of scientists who thought they'd invented cold fusion or found the cure for cancer or … proved Einstein wrong.

But we're rooting for CERN on this one.

No, that's not a dis of Einstein. But if it turns out that one of his most enduring pillars—the speed of light—is just a little off, then it will fire another generation of Einstein-wannabes to seek the truth out there. The universe is even more inscrutable than we thought.

Most thrilling: Time travel might be possible. (Carroll's clever blog headline: "Can Neutrinos Kill Their Own Grandfathers?")

We live in a world created by Einstein. Nuclear energy and the atom bomb. Lasers, global positioning systems, telescopes and scanners that peer into the human body. All because of Einstein's theories.

But Einstein wasn't always right.

He toiled for years on a "unified theory" that would unite all of physics, a primer for how the universe really works. He never finished it.

The universe defies the most brilliant scientific researchers every day. It yields tantalizing bits of information. But mostly it feints. Dodges. Misleads. And withholds so much more. That's true for the mysteries of the cosmos and the more terrestrial riddles of the human heart.

That is the only constant in the cosmos, guaranteed to never change.

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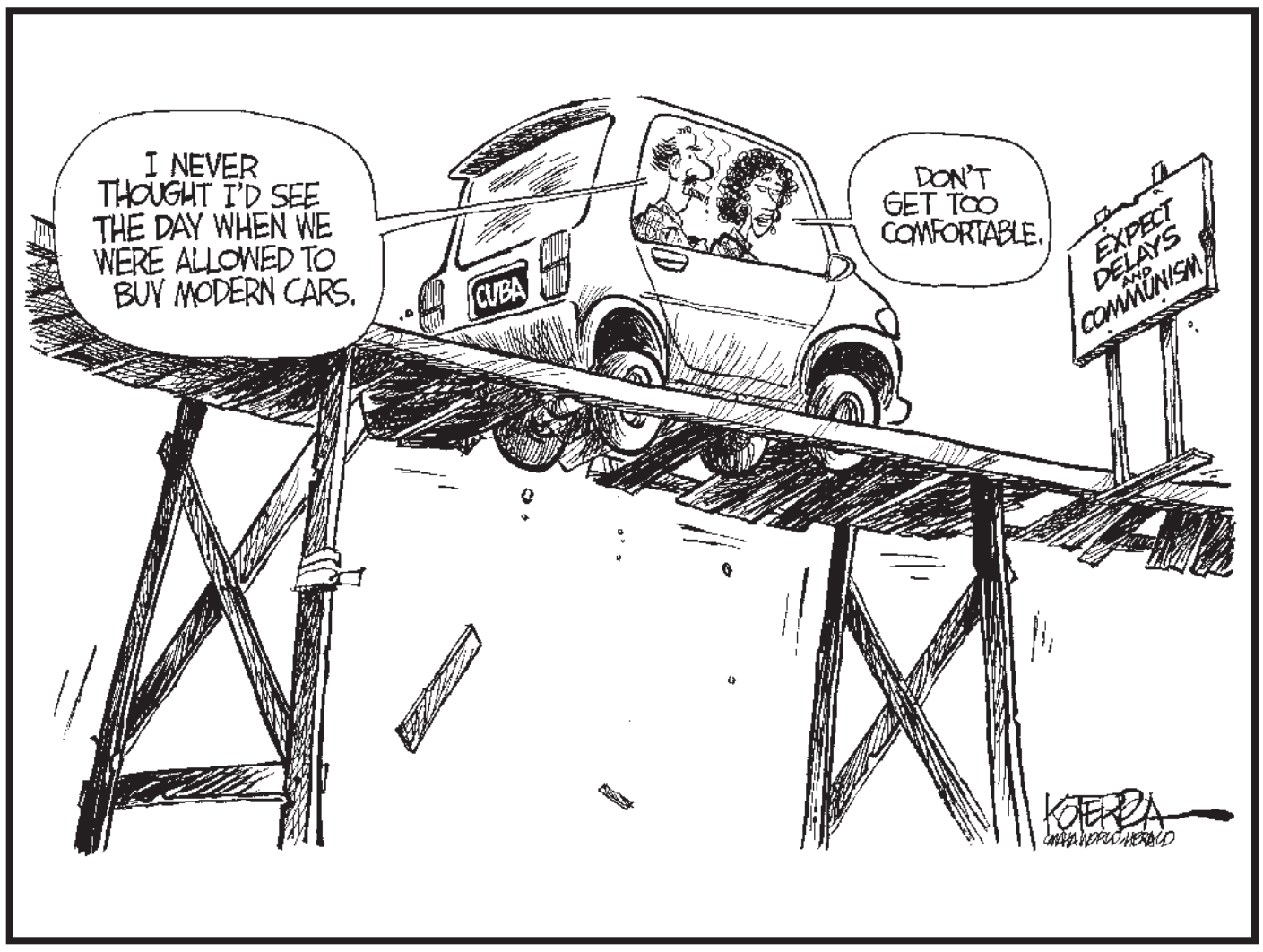

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN WE WERE ALLOWED TO BUY MODERN CARS.
CUBA
DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE.
EXPECT DELAYS AND COMMUNISM
KOTERBA

Can the Arab awakening retain its faith in the power of democracy?

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Next month, I'll be traveling to Tunis to observe the first election of the Arab Spring. Tunisia and Egypt—which I'll also visit—have the best odds in the region of building democratic institutions.

Yet they are embracing electoral politics just as more experienced countries are souring on the value of the ballot. "Protests Rise Around the Globe as Faith in the Vote Wanes," says a *New York Times* headline, with examples from India, Israel, Britain, and Spain. I've witnessed similar frustrations about the value of the vote develop in Russia and Iraq—not to mention in our own country.

So, just as Tunisians gear up for their first free vote, is electoral democracy losing its global status as the most desired political system? And what are the lessons to be learned?

These questions are too big to answer in one column, but let me offer some thoughts.

Countries that have taken part in the Arab awakening are still hopeful about the ballot. "If you're not free, you don't scoff at elections," notes political scientist Michael Mandelbaum, rightly. Arabs who fought hard to dump authoritarian rulers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya—and who are still struggling in Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria—want to choose their own rulers.

But cynicism is already on the rise among many Egyptians and Tunisians about the fairness of election regulations. That bodes ill for the future.

What's even more disturbing is the dismal fate of democracy in some key countries that embraced it after the end of the Cold War, when it seemed that the liberal democratic model had triumphed. There, the ballot is no longer held in esteem.

In post-Soviet Russia, where I spent time during the 1990s, the population was initially thrilled by the right to vote. Yet public enthusiasm was sapped by a decade of instability, economic collapse, and massive government corruption.

In return for stability, Russians were willing to accept a return of authoritarian rule—that permitted some personal freedoms. Soured on elections, most Russians don't care that the balloting is totally controlled by the Kremlin. And they are willing to tolerate corruption, now that they get a share of the oil pie.

In Iraq, I witnessed huge excitement over the first elections in 2005 (remember the purple fingers?). Yet a decade of bloodshed and massive corruption soured Iraqis on the value of the vote. Today, they regard the ballot as a permanent guarantor of power for the majority Shiites, and payoffs for the well-connected. Most Iraqis are disgusted with parliamentarians who don't deliver services but gorge on the spoils of oil.

The lessons: In countries with no democratic history and high expectations, frustration is inevitable. It takes time to build democratic institutions. If living standards stagnate while a new political class enriches itself, voters lose faith in elections. Would-be strongmen wait in the wings.

And there's one more factor that sours the global image of elections. Not long ago, democratic wannabes in the Arab world and elsewhere looked to Western models as examples of what they could achieve if they had freedom. The publics in developing countries believed that democracy guaranteed a high standard of living. This belief fueled the global democracy boom after the fall of the Soviet Union.

In these hard times, Western models look less attractive. Many young Europeans—hit by high employment and severe economic woes—have lost faith in politicians of any party. The young gather in huge demonstrations, some violent, often drawn by the Internet, but are alienated from traditional electoral politics.

Huge protests in Israel over social inequality, and the anticorruption crusade by hundreds of thousands in New Delhi, also signal growing frustration in older democracies with electoral politics. And then, there's the tea party phenomenon here.

Obviously, Europeans and Americans aren't seeking an end to elections, but they are frustrated by their paralyzed political systems. What worries me most is that radical parties, or undemocratic leaders, will feed on that frustration—via the vote.

We can see this phenomenon bubbling up here (although I still believe that basic American common sense will reemerge before elections). Radical parties are already gaining new strength in Europe.

In the Mideast, Islamists will tout the failures of Western systems and gain strength in initial elections. But all Arab politicians will face steep odds, as impatient publics demand better living standards. Oil-wealthy Libya can buy off popular discontent, but Tunisia and Egypt aren't so lucky.

Those Arab leaders who curb corruption may earn themselves more time to deliver. But—at a time when publics worldwide are frustrated by elections, and Arab publics are street-ready—that time frame won't be lengthy. Faith in the virtues of the ballot could fade fast.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Can NMI judges support retirees any further? A question for consideration

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William Stewart, long time resident of Saipan and former CNMI senior economist, is also the author of the Business Reference & Investment Guide to the CNMI *and* Tourism Investment Opportunities in the Commonwealth *(both now out of print but available for review at the Joeten Kiyu Library). He has served as an economic adviser and investment consultant to development banks in Tunisia; Bahamas, Ivory Coast, African Development Bank and the Inter American Development Bank. He is a former foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State.*

I quote portions of a letter from a NMI retiree that is very descriptive of the disappointment many have regarding the NMI's executive and legislative branch's inaction and indifference in paying the government's financial obligation to the Retirement Fund. This has resulted in the almost total diminishment of the Fund as a lifeline for many retirees in their old age.

One retiree, who shall remain anonymous, wrote: *"I have a lot of medical expenses and other bills. I can't afford a pay cut. I have already cut out everything I possibly can, and I'm living paycheck to paycheck. To take a pay cut will mean I can't pay some of my bills any longer. Which bill do I not pay...my health insurance, home loan, doctor's bills, or maybe my car loan? Maybe cut out my medication? The retirees did not create this mess, and we should not have to suffer for the irresponsibility and indifference of the CNMI government who have put the Fund in jeopardy."*

The above retiree continued: *"I see no reason why the retirees, who WON the lawsuit in Superior Court, have to concede to the guilty party (the CNMI govt) by having their pensions and other benefits cut. I've never seen a lawsuit where the winners were forced to submit to the losers in this way. Why don't we simply go after the government and enforce payment of the judgment? The retirees' pensions are protected under the CNMI Constitution. The retirees lived up to their part of the bargain, but the government did not live up to theirs."*

As I read the above I considered the third branch of government, which is supposed to be equal to the other two branches. Under our system of government the judicial branch is charged with the administration of justice, fair and impartial, resulting in our society being governed by the rule of law.

I submit that what has occurred in the NMI regarding the many issues surrounding the callous disregard by the executive and legislative branches for the future welfare and financial security of retirees (retired members of the Judiciary included) by ignoring both the Constitution and the law makes a mockery of the canons the judiciary branch strives to uphold.

As NMI sitting judges are potential beneficiaries of the Fund and retired judges are current recipients, I have a question I would like to pose for consideration by members in both groups.

The administration and Legislature have not respected the ruling of the Superior Court for the payment of a legal, constitutionally protected, adjudicated debt to the Fund. Therefore, is it not reasonable to ask that members of the local judiciary, particularly those already retired, to consider lending their prestige—as private citizens—to support the transfer of the lawsuit from the local to federal court?

The potential conflict of interest aside as a result of the Judiciary's association with the Fund, with presumably $100 million of all retirees' money held in reserve and in consideration of the disposition of judges to remain impartial and unbiased, they do have a right—as we all do—to protect their property rights as well as those of all retirees. That's all any of us are trying to do. It is common knowledge that we all are at five minutes until midnight before the death of the Fund as we know it.

As a result of the questionable action by both the executive and legislative branches to opt out of the U.S. Social Security, presumably without any input from the Judiciary, the imminent collapse of the Fund will leave many retirees in poverty. In the retirees' court of public opinion, this is an injustice.

If it were to occur, the endorsement of local judges in support of the action to remove the lawsuit from the local jurisdiction to the federal court would render a great service and would be to the long-term benefit of the community. It would also renew faith in the NMI administration of self-government, which seems to be waning of late.

The above retiree continued with this observation, *"The government seems intent on breaking up the Fund as soon as possible so they can be rid of their debt, and get the retirees off their backs for good. They have stalled and delayed the court proceedings for over two years now, and have not bothered to repay any of the money they legally owe the Fund. Now, thank God, finally the case is moved to federal court. I hope all retirees support the federal court move. It makes sense, and it's the only place where enforcement of the judgment can occur without political interference. Even now, some in the Legislature are getting creative once again these past two weeks to come up with another law that will negatively impact the Fund."*

Indeed, still yet another retiree points out that the Governor, *"By ordering or causing the government to stop paying employer's contribution into the Retirement Fund, violated the provision of the Covenant (CNMI Constitution, Art III section 20). That provision prohibits any act that diminishes retirees' pensions."*

All of the local government officials and appointees involved, together with those concerned retirees, are aware that NMI judges are appointed rather than elected. As such this does raise the specter of an appearance of a conflict in issues where the government is clearly guilty of being negligent in adhering to the law as also is the Legislature as an associated party with the reliance of 1 CMC Section 7207 to avoid payment of the Superior Court's judgment—which disgracefully has gone nowhere.

Clearly, both the administration and the Legislature, by ignoring the implementation of a Superior Court judgment rendered more than two years ago, brings into question among many retirees the relevance of the judicial process in this particular issue. Several hundred millions of dollars of retirees' money is now at risk as well as the very future financial security of several thousand citizens and their dependents, many of whom may face poverty in a few years because the executive and legislative branch have not cooperated in appropriating funds to comply with the Superior Court order.

It all seems so intentionally planned long ago as a legal mechanism for a convenient excuse to avoid payment of certain "selected" government debts. Section 7207 seems to be an ideal prescription to use to wear down any award to an amount where the prevailing party will accept a much smaller settlement under the guise: *"it's better to have something—than nothing."*

Considering the compounding interest charges continuing to mount up and added to the debt owed by the central government, the longer the outstanding obligation remains due and unpaid, the greater the debt becomes for both the government and by extension the taxpayers of the NMI.

For the Judiciary to permit this delay is an injustice and an added burden placed upon the taxpayers as are the fees paid to private attorneys during this prolonged issue, which has resulted in nothing.

Wrong signal to investors

As long as the central government delays payment to the Fund it sends a signal to potential investors that the NMI Constitution can be ignored when it is convenient for the government to do so. It illustrates that the supposedly three equal branches of government are not equal as far as the Judiciary is ranked and provides clear evidence for all to see that the government does not honor its contractual agreements.

Realization of the above by potential investors can have far reaching and serious adverse consequences by discouraging future foreign investment in the NMI. Such investment is vital to stimulate economic growth, which in turn will provide additional employment opportunities and contribute to an increase in tax revenues.

Should they choose to do so, the support of members of the NMI Judiciary of the lawsuit now in federal court filed on June 25, 2009, might finally assist in preserving the Fund and protecting the CNMI's reputation as an honest government rather than one which appears to not always adhere to its own laws.

The actions of a prominent and dedicated jurist must be commended for the issuance of an "Order of Self-Recusal" stating: *the entire Judiciary is implicated in failing to pay Plaintiff's contributions and parties have not agreed to waive the conflict of interest."* This same jurist as the district federal judge also implemented self-recusal from the issues involving the Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the NMI government.

Fund's contribution to the government

Also, while no one expects a quid pro quo, perhaps it's appropriate for this article to recall that the Fund did finance the Judiciary Building. Had it not done so, the Fund might still have those loan proceeds plus any invested interest earnings available for pension payments.

The financing for the judicial building was possible from the proceeds of the once healthy defined benefit plan (DBP), which the government has now abandoned for its own convenience. In the opinion of this retiree, such abandonment will prove to be not in the long-term best interest of current government employees. The DBP was the same plan and source of funds for a home loan program, which is now also dead.

The new defined contribution plan (DCP), is an inadequate replacement for the DBP and will never be a source for such home ownership financing assistance.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

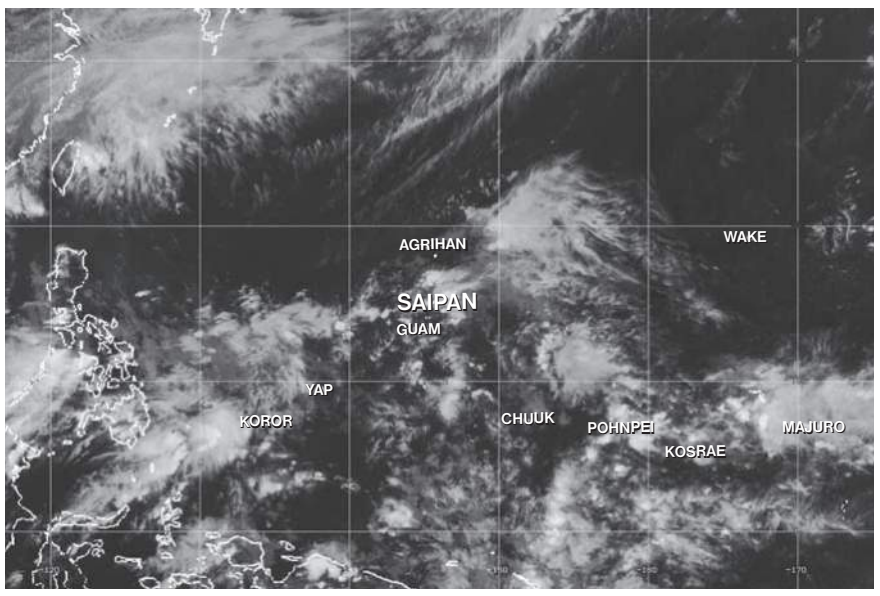
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Sunny	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼62
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼54
Miami	Showers	▲87	▼74
New York	Showers	▲66	▼55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼64
Paris	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼50
San Francisco	Showers	▲64	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲70	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼60
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from Luzon to 15N130E to 12N140E to 4N147E to end near EQ160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located north of Palau and Yap between 8N and 14N from 130E to 136E and between 10N and 17N from 136E to 140E and west of Chuuk between the equator and 8N from 145E to 147E. An upper-level trough extends from an upper-level low located near 22N150E to 12N130E. Surface convergence combining with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 10N and 21N from 146E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across Kosrae, Kwajalein and portions of the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 162E to 180E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:36 PM	
Wednesday	1:24 PM	12:13 AM
Thursday	2:09 PM	1:07 AM
Friday	2:49 PM	1:59 AM
Saturday	3:28 PM	2:49 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Long road from farm to fork worsens food outbreaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recent listeria outbreak from cantaloupe demonstrates one likely cause of large-scale occurrences of serious illnesses linked to tainted food: the long and winding road what we eat takes from farm to fork.

A cantaloupe grown on a Colorado field may make four or five stops before it reaches the dinner table. There's the packing house where it is cleaned and packaged, then the distributor who contracts with retailers to sell the melons in large quantities. A processor may cut or bag the fruit. The retail distribution center is where the melons are sent out to various stores. Finally it's stacked on display at the grocery store.

Imported fruits and vegetables, which make up almost two-thirds of the produce consumed in the United States, have an even longer journey.

"Increasingly with agribusiness you have limited producers of any given food, so a breakdown in a facility or plant or in a large field crop operation exposes thousands because of the way the food is distributed," says Dr. Brian Currie, an infectious disease specialist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

The Colorado cantaloupe crop that's linked to 84 illnesses and as many as 17 deaths in 19 states has traveled so far and wide that producer Jensen Farms doesn't even know exactly where their fruit ended up.

The company said last week that it can't provide a list of retailers that sold the tainted fruit because the melons were sold and resold. It named the 28 states where the fruit was shipped, but people in other states have reported getting sick.

A Kansas-based processor that purchased cantaloupes from Jensen, Carol's Cuts, didn't provide a notice to its customers that it had sold the farm's cantaloupes until nine days after the original recall.

"The food chain is very complex," says Sherri McGarry, a senior adviser in the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Foods. "There are many steps, and the more steps there are the harder it can be to link up each step to identify what the common source" of an outbreak is.

Fewer and larger farms and companies dominate food production in the country. That has driven some consumers to seek out farmers markets and locally grown produce. Supermarkets now highlight food grown nearby, while farmers markets have soared in popularity.

But many in the produce industry have come together to try and improve the ability to quickly trace food from field to plate.

This is good business. Large recalls, such as spinach in 2006, peanuts in 2009 and eggs in 2010, tend to depress sales for an entire product industry, even if only one company or grower was responsible for the outbreak.

Recent outbreaks of salmonella in peanuts and eggs, which are ingredients in thousands of foods, have been more widespread and sickened more people than have the tainted cantaloupe.

"There has been a laser focus on improving traceability so any recall can identify the affected product immediately and not have an effect on the rest of the entire category," says Ray Gilmer of United Fresh Produce Association, which represents the country's largest growers.

Japanese business confidence improves

TOKYO (AP)—A key central bank survey offered a cautiously optimistic assessment of corporate Japan, where business confidence is improving even as the global economy's prospects darken.

In the Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey of business sentiment released Monday, the main index for big manufacturers climbed back into positive territory as a recovery from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami took hold. The latest reading stood at 2, up from minus 9 three months ago.

The figure represents the percentage of companies saying business conditions are good minus those saying conditions are unfavorable, with 100 representing the best mood and minus 100 the worst.

The earthquake and tsunami disrupted parts manufacturing, leading to critical shortages for industries such as automobiles and electronics. The fallout extended worldwide, with the International Monetary Fund estimating that global car production tumbled up to 30 percent in the two months after the disaster.

The economic aftershocks dragged Japan back into recession and resulted in a sharp deterioration in confidence that sent the main tankan index to its lowest level in more than a year.

But factories have put supply disruptions largely behind them now. Industrial production figures last week showed that output had nearly recovered to pre-quake levels. Exports in August rose for the first time in six months.

Monday's numbers "clearly support our view that Japan's economy continues to recover, largely due to the improvement of auto sector, even with intensified headwinds from slower global growth and yen appreciation," said Masamichi Adachi, senior economist at JPMorgan Securities Japan, in a research note.

The mood among big nonmanufacturers also climbed into positive territory to 1 from minus 5 in June.

Smaller enterprises improved as well, though they weren't feeling quite as optimistic. The confidence index for medium-sized manufacturers rose to minus 3 from minus 12. The small manufacturers' index stood at minus 11 from minus 21.

The future appears less certain. Companies in the tankan gave a mixed picture of the months ahead, reflecting deepening worries about global growth, Europe's debt problems and a persistently strong yen.

The IMF last month sharply downgraded its economic outlook for the United States and Europe through the end of next year. Its chief economist described the world economy as entering a "dangerous new phase."

What happens elsewhere matters to Japan because it relies heavily on exports to drive growth. Any slowdown in overseas demand could thwart progress made since the disaster.

Exporters are also grappling with a strong yen, which surged this year to post World-War II highs against the dollar as the U.S. central bank pursued stimulus policies that contributed to a weaker greenback. When the yen climbs, it reduces the value of exporters' overseas profits when repatriated to Japan.

Officials have expressed concern that the yen's prolonged strength could lead to a hollowing out of Japanese industry. Already, companies such as Nissan Motor Co. and Panasonic Corp. have announced plans to shift more production overseas.

The survey forecasts business sentiment among large manufacturers to rise to 4 over the next quarter. Medium-sized manufacturers also expect a slight improvement. But small manufacturers and non-manufacturers predict business conditions to either stay flat or deteriorate.

AP

Workers use a tractor to remove plastic from a field of rotting cantaloupe on the Jensen Farms near Holly, Colo., on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011.

Greece to miss deficit targets for 2011-2012

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece won't meet 2011-2012 deficit targets imposed by international lenders as part of the country's bailout, the Finance Ministry said Sunday.

The country's deficit this year is expected to reach 8.5 percent of gross domestic product, or euro18.69 billion ($25.2 billion)—higher than the targeted euro17.1 billion ($23.1 billion), which would have been 7.8 percent of GDP, the ministry said.

Greece has been reliant since May 2010 on regular payouts of loans from a euro110 billion ($150 billion) bailout from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. It was granted a second euro109 billion package in July, but details of that deal remain to be worked out.

The Finance Ministry said the missed target was because of a deeper-than-expected recession, with the economy contracting by 5.5 percent instead of the 3.8 percent estimate made in May. It implied the deficit could even exceed this level by the end of the year unless all new austerity measures were implemented.

"The final estimate for a deficit equal to 8.5 percent of GDP can be achieved, if there is a proper response by the state authorities and the citizens themselves, on whose stance the country's financial ... and social future depends," the announcement said.

The announcement reflects the government's frustration with tax collection, which they blame on tax inspectors' lax performance, and its fear that citizens, angry at seeing their wages shrink and, at the same time, having to pay an increasing amount of one-off taxes, would refuse to pay.

There are already widespread calls not to pay a property surcharge, to be included in the next batch of state electricity company bills, despite the fact that delinquent payers are threatened with having their houses disconnected from the grid. The government hopes that revenue from the property levy will raise about euro2 billion ($2.7 billion) in 2011 and a similar amount in 2012.

The 2012 budget is projected to reduce the deficit to euro14.68 billion ($19.82 billion), or 6.8 percent of GDP, up from the 6.5 percent target agreed with Greece's lenders. Excluding serving Greece's debt, the budget is projected to have a primary surplus of euro3.2 billion, or 1.5 percent of GDP, meaning that Greece's debt will stop growing, as a percentage of GDP.

The Cabinet also decided up to 28,000 public sector employees will be placed on "reserve" - that is, suspended with reduced pay, by the end of 2011.

The program falls short of the 30,000 reduction demanded by Greece's creditors and, with few exceptions, it is actually an early retirement program on full pensions. Those affected will be paid a fraction of their actual salary for a period of one to two years, but will be able, at the same time, to hold jobs in the private sector, if they can find them.

"The approved proposal is the result of lengthy and difficult negotiations with (the lenders) who insisted that placing employees on reserve should have been a step towards firing them and not an early retirement" program, government spokesman Elias Mossialos said.

The government expects savings of euro300 million from the plan in 2012.

The cabinet committed itself to reducing civil service jobs by 150,000 within four years.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Alibaba CEO says he's interested in buying Yahoo

NEW YORK (AP)—The CEO of the Chinese Internet company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. says he would be "very interested" in buying Yahoo Inc. Jack Ma made the statement in response to a question during a speaking engagement at Stanford University on Friday, said John Spelich, a spokesman for Alibaba. Ma also told the audience that prospective buyers had approached Alibaba to discuss a possible purchase for Yahoo, Spelich said late Saturday. The spokesman did not identify the prospective buyers.

Barnes & Noble tries to win over Borders customers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bookseller Barnes & Noble is trying to win over customers of its defunct rival, Borders Group Inc., after buying a list of their names in bankruptcy court. Barnes & Noble CEO William Lynch says in a letter posted on the company's website that it bought a list of Borders' customers, including a list of their DVD purchases. It has also bought Borders brand trademarks. Customers can prevent Barnes & Noble from receiving their data by visiting www.bn.com/borders before Oct. 29 and opting out.

Asian markets sharply down on recession fears

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian markets tumbled sharply in early trading Monday, hurt by data suggesting debt-strapped Greece's attempts at austerity were not yielding results and a weakening economic picture in Europe. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 2.3 percent to 8,503.88, with a government survey showing an improvement in business confidence among Japanese manufacturers doing little to nudge markets back to life. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 4.1 percent to 16,866.76. Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 2.2 percent to 3,921.90. Markets in mainland China and South Korea were closed for national holidays.

Nation

Anti-terrorism success may not help Obama in 2012

WASHINGTON (AP)—The killing of an American-born cleric in Yemen underscores a re-election reality for President Barack Obama: He may have a string of counterterrorism successes and high marks from the public on foreign policy, but neither is likely to help him hold the White House.

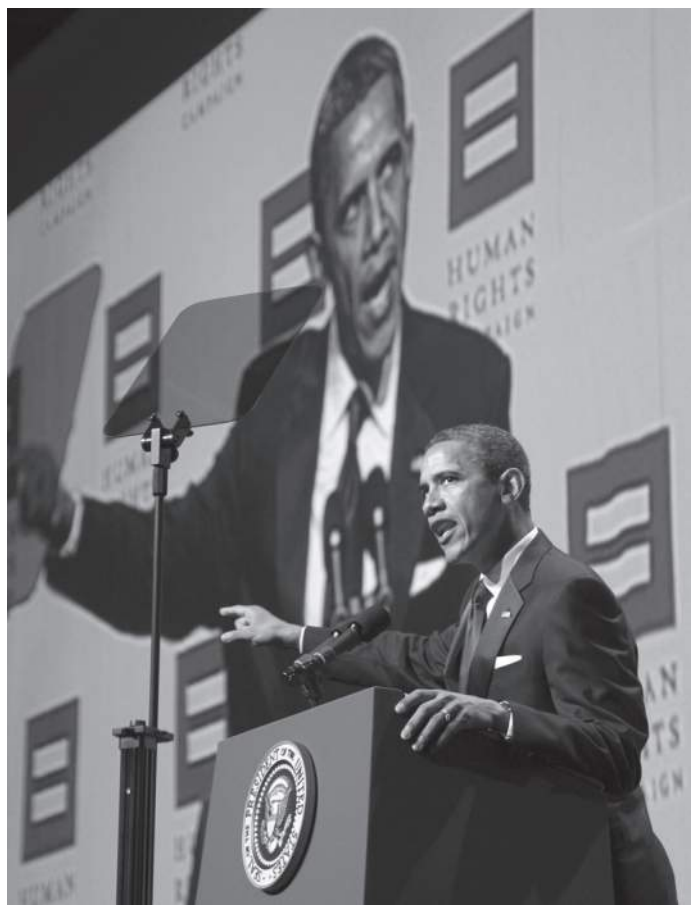
For the Obama administration, it's a frustrating bottom-line.

When the first-term senator won the presidency, questions lingered about his readiness to handle national security matters. Yet Obama has received wide praise for operations that have killed terrorist leaders, most notably Osama bin Laden in May, and Anwar al-Awlaki on Friday.

Al-Awlaki, an American citizen targeted in a U.S. drone attack, was deemed by the administration as having a "significant operational role" in terrorist plots. They included two nearly catastrophic attacks on U.S.-bound planes, an airliner on Christmas 2009 and cargo planes last year.

Obama also can claim credit for aiding Libyan rebels in ousting Moammar Gadhafi, for supporting other democratic uprisings in the Arab world, for drawing down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for negotiating a new nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia.

But barring unforeseen events, the nation's stubbornly high unemployment rate and turmoil in the financial markets mean people are far more likely to vote next November with the economy foremost in their minds, not the president's record on foreign policy and terrorism.



AP

President Barack Obama delivers his remarks at the Human Rights Campaign's 15th annual national dinner in Washington Saturday Oct. 1, 2011.

That's bad news for the administration because the public gives Obama far higher approval ratings on terrorism than on his handling of the economy.

In fact, Obama's approval rating on terrorism was higher than on any other issue, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in late August. It showed that 60 percent of those surveyed approved of his handling of terrorism. Just 36 percent approved of his handling of the economy, an all-time low for Obama.

Obama's overall approval rating also fell to an all-time low in the poll, 46 percent.

The re-election picture gets even gloomier given that 92 percent of those questioned said the economy was an extremely or very important issue. By comparison, 73 percent put the same emphasis on terrorism, but even they're divided over whether Obama should be re-elected.

It's also unclear whether the killing of al-Awlaki will bring Obama any new political support. The fiery American-born cleric had a hand in several high-profile terror attempts on the U.S., but his name is hardly as familiar to most Americans as bin Laden.

Obama's orders for U.S. special forces to kill bin Laden during a raid on his Pakistani compound did give the president's approval rating a bump. But it proved fleeting, further evidence of the secondary role of terrorism for voters.

"It's not 2004," said Rick Nelson, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "This isn't the primary issue facing the United States. The primary issue is the economy and jobs. That issue is going to overshadow anything we do overseas."

The joint CIA-U.S. military airstrike that targeted al-Awlaki and killed a second American citizen wasn't without controversy.

The attack apparently was the first time a U.S. citizen was tracked and executed based on secret intelligence and the president's say-so, raising questions about the reach of presidents' powers.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul, a GOP presidential contender, called it an "assassination" and said Americans should not casually accept such violence against U.S. citizens, even those with strong ties to terrorism

But most other top Republicans running for Obama's job saw little downside in praising the president for his role.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry congratulated Obama, along with the military and intelligence agencies, for "aggressive anti-terror policies." Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney commended the president for his efforts to keep Americans safe and said al-Awlaki's death was a "major victory" in the terrorism fight.

With the first nominating contests about three months away, foreign policy and terrorism have been virtually absent from the Republican race. When the issues have arisen, most GOP contenders have tried to portray the president as a weak leader. It's a sentiment they hope taps into voters' frustration with the economy.

Bruce Jones, an expert on transnational threats, said Obama's success against terrorist leaders may help counter that GOP strategy.

"At the very least, it takes away from the critics the idea that he can't lead, that he doesn't understand those kinds of issues," said Jones, also a senior foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think tank.

Alaska voters weighing in: salmon vs. gold

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The battle over a copper and gold mine near one of the world's premier salmon fisheries is headed to the ballot in a vote next week that has turned a normally sleepy local election into a national environmental debate.

Voters in southwest Alaska's Lake and Peninsula Borough are deciding whether to ban large-scale resource extraction activity, including mining, that would destroy or degrade salmon habitat. The measure is aimed squarely at Pebble Mine, the massive gold-and-copper prospect near the headwaters of Bristol Bay.

The debate surrounding Pebble has attracted the attention of chefs, Robert Redford and big-name jewelers who have vowed not to sell any gold coming from the project

But Tuesday's vote will almost certainly not be the last word on how—or whether—the mine is built.

AP

In this July 13, 2007 file photo, workers with the Pebble Mine project test drill in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska near the village of Iliamma, Alaska.

"Among other things, the question in front of the Lake and Peninsula voters is about changes to land use that the Alaska attorney general says is unenforceable as a matter of law," said Mike Heatwole, a spokesman for Pebble Limited Partnership, the group promoting the mine project.

Pebble Partnership sued to keep the "Save the Salmon" initiative off the ballot, arguing in part that the measure would improperly bypass the role of the local planning commission. State court Judge John Suddock denied that request, noting Alaska's Supreme Court has given deference to initiatives absent proof they would do something unlawful. He put the case on hold until Nov. 7, to allow for the vote and challenges.

The vote is the latest skirmish in the fight over a project that supporters say could create up to 1,000 long-term jobs in economically-depressed rural Alaska but that opponents fear could fundamentally change the landscape and disrupt, if not destroy, a way of life.

The mine is a joint venture of Canada-based Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. and Anglo American plc of the United Kingdom.

The companies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars scoping out the deposit, which Northern Dynasty has described as the largest undeveloped deposit of its type in the world, with the potential of producing 53 billion pounds of copper, 50 million ounces of gold and 2.8 billion pounds of molybdenum over nearly 80 years.

The mine would be directly above Iliamna Lake, the largest producer of sockeye salmon in the world.

3 dead, 3 wounded in California party shooting

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (AP)—Three people were killed and three others wounded when at least two gunmen opened fire as partygoers left a Northern California warehouse early Sunday, authorities said.

The gunmen started shooting as a group of people walked out of the building around 1:20 a.m., San Leandro police Sgt. Doug Calgano said.

Three people were pronounced dead at the scene. Police did not know the condition of the three who were wounded. The names of victims had not been released, but Roger Kiel told San Francisco television station ABC7 that his daughter, Shanice Kiel, 19, was one of the people fatally shot.

"I'm devastated" he told the station as police examined a bullet-riddled SUV in the background. "I'm looking at my car with the bullet holes in my windshield where I sit. So, I know my daughter suffered a horrible death."

At least 100 people attended the party, which had been advertised on the Internet, Calgano said. He was not aware of a permit being issued for the party, which would have been required for a gathering of that size.

As the shooting began, many of the partygoers fled.

"Obviously it was a chaotic scene," Calgano said.

The gunmen were armed with semi-automatic handguns, but police have not determined how many shots were fired. Investigators were trying to establish if the gunmen had attended the party, or arrived as people left the party. It was not clear if the gunmen were in a vehicle or on foot when they opened fire.

No arrests have been made, and police have not determined a motive.

ACROSS THE NATION

Minn. women accused of terror financing face trial

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—One of two Minnesota women accused of funneling money to a terrorist group in Somalia allegedly told potential donors to ignore charities and focus on "the jihad" and helped finance local Somali men's travel to their war-torn homeland to fight, prosecutors alleged in court filings. The details hint at evidence the government claims it has against Amina Farah Ali, who is scheduled to stand trial Monday on multiple terror charges. Prosecutors said Ali, 35, and her co-defendant, 64-year-old Hawo Mohamed Hassan, were part of a "deadly pipeline" that routed money and fighters from the U.S. to Somalia.

$2.8B fund to aid 9/11 victims taking applications

NEW YORK (AP)—The newly reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of $2.8 billion will start taking applications Monday. The fund is intended to help people who became ill after working at ground zero and others whose sicknesses can be tied to the site. Residents, workers and others can apply, including those whose claims to the first fund were denied. "Everybody who is eligible should apply for this," said John Feal, a leading advocate for injured first responders.

NYC's Rat Island, 2 acres of rock, sells for $160K

NEW YORK (AP)—As far as private islands go, New York City's Rat Island isn't exactly luxurious. It's really just a pile of rocks that once housed quarantined typhoid patients. But the island sold at auction Sunday for $160,000. Real estate agent Ozzie Crisalli says he doesn't know what the buyer has planned for it. Rat Island is located off City Island in the Bronx. It boasts 360-degree views of the water and measures about 2 1/2 acres—during low tide.

Asia

Floods recede slowly in storm-battered PH

CALUMPIT, Philippines (AP)—Floodwaters slowly receded Monday in many parts of the northern Philippines after two typhoons that killed nearly 60 people, amid appeals for more boats to bring food and water to residents refusing to abandon inundated homes.

Mayor James de Jesus of worst-hit Calumpit town north of Manila said that at least 15 villages were still inaccessible and evacuation centers crowded with about 15,000 people.

As waters subsided, many residents staying on rooftops for days refused to leave their homes for fear of burglars and instead asked to be delivered food and supplies. Others who took advantage of rescue boats lined up in long lines with containers to get drinking water.

"For now we need rescue teams with rubber boats. We need to distribute food and water to the families stranded by the floods. I cannot reach all of them personally," de Jesus said in a radio interview. He also appealed for additional police to guard against looters, with some people complaining about stolen property.

"Floods are receding, but some areas remain flooded," said Bulacan provincial disaster official Raul Agustin, adding that rescuers had difficulty reaching riverside villages because of strong currents.

At least 59 people were killed by the two typhoons that hit the northern Philippines days apart last week. Typhoon Nalgae killed at least three people Saturday.

It was headed Monday for China's Hainan Island and central Vietnam, where the worst seasonal flooding in more than a decade has killed 11 people, including five children, over the past week in the southern Mekong Delta.

Hundreds of people have died across Southeast Asia, China, Japan and South Asia in the last four months from prolonged monsoon flooding, typhoons and storms.

In Cambodia, flash floods along the Mekong River have killed at least 150 people since August and damaged 670,000 acres (271,000 hectares) of rice fields, 904 schools and 361 Buddhist temples, government disaster agency spokesman Keo Vy said Sunday.

The government in neighboring Thailand said heavy floods there have killed 206 people since August.

Four crew members died Monday and six went missing after a Panama-registered cargo vessel ran aground in heavy seas off the northern Taiwanese coast, the coast guard said. Another 11 sailors were rescued, it said.

In China, weather officials said heavy rain was expected to hit the south of the country over the next four days, with the coastal provinces of Hainan, Guangdong and Fujian the worst hit.

The National Meteorological Center said strong winds would also sweep coastal areas, and warned residents to stay indoors.

Nalgae, which was downgraded to a tropical storm, followed closely after Typhoon Nesat last week, which caused havoc in parts of southern China, flooding rivers and knocking out power lines. The strongest typhoon to hit since 2005, the official Xinhua News Agency said it affected more than 500,000 people in Hainan.

AP

A father and his child wade through floodwaters as flooding continues for the fourth day Sunday Oct. 2, 2011 at Calumpit township, Bulacan province north of Manila, Philippines.

Reports say Tibetans protest in southwest China

BEIJING (AP)—Angry Tibetans protested in a tense area of southwestern China on the country's National Day after a Tibetan flag and a photo of the Dalai Lama were torn down, a news report said Sunday.

The protest took place Saturday in Seda, a county seat in eastern Sichuan province, after the flag and photo were taken down and thrown into the street, U.S.-funded broadcaster Radio Free Asia reported.

Saturday was the 62nd anniversary of when the Communist Party took control of China.

A notice on a website of the Tibetan government in exile, which is based in Dharmsala, India, said more than 200 Tibetans, including monks, protested. It said it had no further details.

Seda was the scene of widespread protests after deadly riots rocked the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, in March 2008.

Ethnic Tibetan areas of Sichuan have been tense recently. Late last month, two Tibetan monks set themselves on fire at the Kirti monastery to protest China's tight rein over Buddhist practices in another area of the province. They were rescued by police with slight burns.

Phone calls to government, police and party offices in Seda all rang unanswered Sunday, which was a holiday as part of National Day celebrations.

Several residents reached by telephone in the area said that they had not heard of any protest, and that the streets were calm Sunday.

Radio Free Asia said the protesters also called for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

The 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate has lived in Dharmsala since fleeing Tibet. China says Tibet has always been part of its territory, but many Tibetans say the region was virtually independent for centuries.

Afghanistan urges Pakistan to take steps for peace

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government urged neighboring Pakistan on Sunday to take concrete steps to help end the Taliban insurgency and use its influence to bring the militants to direct peace talks.

The appeal follows accusations that Pakistan, through its historical ties with some of the militant groups, has played an active role in supporting attacks across the border on U.S. and Afghan targets—a charge it denies.

The allegations against the country and the calls for its help reveal a central quandary in trying to end the decade of fighting that began with the U.S. invasion after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks: Pakistan, even if it has ties to groups behind the insurgency, would be of central importance in any effort to bring about a negotiated peace.

Afghan leaders, however, are growing impatient.

"Afghanistan has invested a great amount of goodwill and political capital to create an atmosphere of trust and confidence and to try to improve relations with Pakistan over the past three years," Foreign Ministry spokesman Janan Mosazai told reporters in Kabul.

"Unfortunately, we have not been witness to the type of concrete progress that we were expecting—that was promised to us by our brothers and sisters in Pakistan," he said.

In particular, Afghanistan wants its neighbor's help in the "facilitation of direct negotiations with the Taliban leadership and with any other insurgent leaders who are prepared to join the Afghan national reconciliation process," Mosazai said.

Pakistan's northwest tribal region serves as a haven for insurgents fighting Afghan and U.S. forces across the border as well as the Pakistani government. Pakistan has ties with some of the militant groups dating back to the war in the 1980s against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

Afghan and U.S. officials, long frustrated at Pakistan's failure to wage an all-out battle against militants on its soil, have recently accused Islamabad of supporting attacks across the border, including an hours-long assault on the U.S. Embassy last month in Kabul.

Reflecting the deepening frustration, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said over the weekend that he was giving up on trying to talk to the Taliban directly and that the key to ending the war is mediation by Pakistan.

At the same time, Karzai has suspended a series of meetings between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States because of the fallout over accusations that Pakistan is playing a double game. The Afghan government said it had evidence that Pakistan played a role in the Sept. 20 assassination of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Karzai's office said a special commission investigating Rabbani's death had concluded the attack was planned in Quetta, the Pakistani city where key Taliban leaders are based. The delegation also said the primary assailant was a Pakistani citizen.

Interior Minister Bismullah Khan Mohammadi said Saturday in an Afghan parliamentary session that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency was involved in the killing.

Pakistan denied the allegation the allegation Sunday, calling it "baseless" and "irresponsible." It said the evidence given to Pakistan consisted of the confession of an Afghan national, Hamidullah Akundzadeh, accused of masterminding Rabbani's assassination.

"Instead of making such irresponsible statements, those in positions of authority in Kabul, should seriously deliberate as to why all those Afghans who are favorably disposed toward peace and toward Pakistan are systematically being removed from the scene and killed," said Pakistan's Foreign Ministry in a written statement.

Meanwhile, the members of the High Peace Council that Rabbani had headed met with Karzai and asked for a full review of the process. They said they do not want to waste time trying to reconcile with insurgents on the Pakistani side of the border who have not renounced violence, according to a presidential statement and members of the council.

That would be a major shift for the council, which was formed to try to find a way to get the Taliban leadership to the negotiating table.

"Those groups that are hiding in Pakistan, they are sending terrorists at us. So how can we have peace with those people?" said Ismail Qasemyar, one of the members who met with Karzai.

There is debate over how much influence Pakistan actually has with the Taliban, but most analysts believe that the country is vital to the success of any peace talks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 dead, 6 missing as ship runs aground off Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Four crew members died Monday and six went missing after a Panama-registered cargo vessel ran aground in heavy seas off the northern Taiwanese coast, the coast guard said. Another 11 sailors were rescued, it said. The Taiwanese Defense Ministry said the ship with 21 crew members broke into two after colliding into rocks off the shore of the port of Keelung in the early hours of Monday morning. The crew members' nationalities were not known. The ministry said rescuers were looking for the missing.

Filipino militants free US woman, still hold son

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim militants freed a Filipino-American woman after 2 1/2 months in captivity in the southern Philippines but are still holding her 14-year-old son and a relative, authorities said Monday. Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann was dropped off by boat late Sunday at a wharf and walked to nearby Maluso township on southern Basilan Island, where a patrolling police team picked her up, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang. She was handed over to FBI agents in the Philippines. Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants snatched the three on July 12 while they were vacationing with their relatives on an island near southern Zamboanga city.

Indonesia arrests a most-wanted Muslim militant

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's anti-terrorism squad has arrested one of the country's most wanted Muslim militants for allegedly plotting suicide attacks. Local police chief Lt. Col. Lufti Martadian said Sunday that Beni Asri was captured without a fight on Friday near his parents' house in Solok of West Sumatra province. He says that Asri was flown to Jakarta hours after he was arrested for allegedly helping plot a suicide bombing in a church in the Central Java town of Solo on Sept. 25 that injured 22 worshippers. The 26-year-old was one of five men wanted for allegedly plotting an April suicide bombing that injured 30 police officers praying in a mosque in the West Java town of Cirebon.

World

Yemeni jet bombs army post, killing 30 soldiers

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A government warplane bombed an army position in southern Yemen, killing at least 30 soldiers involved in months of intense battles against al-Qaida members, officials said Sunday.

The strike appeared to be a mistake, but the soldiers hit were from a unit that had defected to side with protesters seeking the president's ouster in Yemen's chapter of the Arab Spring, raising questions about whether the bombing might have been intentional.

Yemen's' government and the renegade military units both consider Yemen's al-Qaida branch an enemy. The president's political opponents, however, accuse him of allowing the Islamic militants to seize control of several towns in southern Yemen earlier this year in a bid to spark fears in the West that without him in power, al-Qaida would take over.

The airstrike, which took place on Saturday evening in Abyan province, targeted an abandoned school used as a shelter by soldiers of the army's 119th Brigade who were battling the al-Qaida fighters, military and medical officials said. The brigade is thought to have received significant support from the U.S. military to enable it to fight the militants in the south more effectively.

The school is located just east of Abyan's provincial capital, Zinjibar, seized in May by Islamic militants taking advantage of Yemen's political turmoil to expand their reach. In recent days, fighting in the area has been heavy; 28 soldiers and militants were killed there Saturday.

After the airstrike, militants inspecting the site shot and killed soldiers who were wounded by the bombing, the military officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

AP

A defected army soldier, right, holds his rifle as he stands with others on a vehicle next to the site of a demonstration by protestors to demand the resignation of Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011.

Yemen's turmoil is of deep concern to the United States and Europe in large part because of the possibility that Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula will benefit from it and carve out an even bigger haven in Yemen from which to plot attacks on the West.

The group was behind several nearly successful strikes on U.S. targets, including the failed attempt in 2009 to blow up a Detroit-bound jetliner with explosives sewn into the underwear of a would-be suicide bomber.

On Friday, an American drone strike in Yemen killed U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, a key al-Qaida figure, and Samir Khan, a Pakistani-American who produced the terror group's English-language Web magazine, Inspire.

On the same day, two U.S. officials said intelligence had indicated that the top al-Qaida bomb-maker in Yemen also died in the strike—Ibrahim al-Asiri, who was linked to the bomb hidden in the underwear of the Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up the plane over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because al-Asiri's death had not officially been confirmed.

In Washington on Sunday, a top Yemeni official said al-Asiri was not killed in the strike. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

Tribal elders on Sunday said the convoy targeted in the strike may have included a third car that escaped. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals for speaking to the media.

Yemen's crisis began in February when protesters inspired by Arab uprisings across the region took to the streets to demand President Ali Abdullah Saleh step down after 33 years in office. The government responded with a bloody crackdown that has included the use of pro-regime snipers to pick off unarmed demonstrators.

In the months since, government forces have also battled armed anti-Saleh tribesmen and another renegade army unit, the elite 1st Armored Division, which defected to the opposition in March.

That fighting has transformed parts of Sanaa into war zones, with mortar shells and rockets tearing through buildings in the capital for weeks.

On Sunday, a mortar shell struck a school in Sanaa, killing a girl and wounding six others, said a hospital official, Mohammed al-Qabati. It was not clear which side fired the shell.

Gadhafi son denies Interpol allegations

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's son, al-Saadi, denied allegations of corruption and intimidation and called Interpol's decision to put him on the equivalent of its most-wanted list political, according to an email sent Sunday.

Al-Saadi Gadhafi is under house arrest in Libyan neighbor Niger, where he fled after Tripoli fell to revolutionary forces. His father and two of his brothers are in hiding, presumably inside Libya, as fighting between revolutionary forces and Gadhafi's loyalists continues on three fronts.

Al-Saadi "regrets the issue of a red notice by Interpol and strenuously denies the charges made against him," an email forwarded to The Associated Press said.

Interpol issued a red notice for al-Saadi last week based on accusations he misappropriated property and engaged in "armed intimidation" when he headed the Libyan Football Federation. He also was a special forces commander and is the subject of U.N. sanctions for commanding military units involved in repression of demonstrations.

The international police agency said the notice was issued in response to a request by the Libya's National Transitional Council, which has assumed leadership of the North African nation. Niger, which borders Libya on the south and long benefited from Gadhafi's largesse, has said it would study the question.

In the email, al-Saadi called the Interpol notice a "clear political decision to recognize the de jure authority of the National Transitional Council taken without appropriate regard to the current absence of a functioning, effective and fair system of justice in Libya."

It said al-Saadi "worked tirelessly to promote football in Libya, priding himself on the fact that Libya was formerly selected to host the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations." It added that Gadhafi's son "continues to call on all sides to seek a negotiated and peaceful resolution to the present conflict."

The South African Football Association has signed an agreement with Libya's post-Gadhafi football federation to host the 2013 African Cup of Nations, while Libya will stage the 2017 games.

The email was relayed to the AP on Sunday by defense attorney Nick Kaufman, who has been involved in a number of international criminal cases. Kaufman said he was contacted by an intermediary he identified as al-Saadi's press secretary, Jackie Frazier.

Al-Saadi fled to Niger in mid-September along with several other regime loyalists, including some generals.

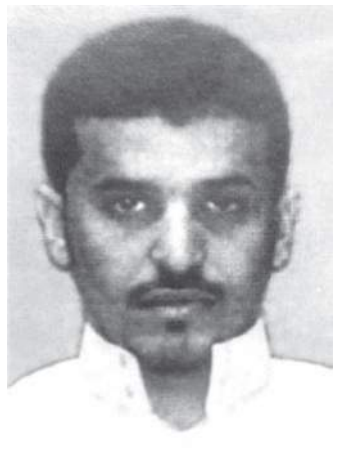
Interpol also has issued red notices for Moammar Gadhafi and his son Seif al-Islam upon request by the Hague-based International Criminal Court. Both men have been charged with crimes against humanity.

Yemeni official: Al-Qaida bomb maker not killed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Al-Qaida's top bomb maker in Yemen did not die in a drone strike on a convoy, a top Yemeni official said Sunday, a report that dashed the hopes of U.S. officials who thought the attack might have killed a trio of top al-Qaida personnel.

The U.S. drone strike Friday killed U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki and an American propagandist, Samir Khan, who published a slick English-language web magazine that spouted al-Qaida's anti-Western ideology.

U.S. intelligence officials had said it appeared that bomb maker Ibrahim al-Asiri was among the dead. However, on Sunday the Yemeni official released a list of two others whose bodies had been identified and noted that al-Asiri was not one of them. The Yemeni official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.



AP

This undated file photo released by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010, purports to show Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri.

The Saudi-born Al-Asiri, 29, was tied to the so-called underwear bomb that was used in an attempt to bring down a Detroit-bound jetliner on Christmas Day in 2009. A Nigerian man has been charged in that attack. Al-Asiri was also believed to have been behind an intercepted pair of explosives-laden printers that were mailed from Yemen to the U.S. in 2010.

There was no immediate official word from the U.S. regarding the identities of the bodies.

Al-Asiri has been described as a critical component of al-Qaida's activities in Yemen and his death would be a significant blow to the organization.

Even before officials determined al-Asiri had not died in the strike, anti-terrorism experts noted that al-Qaida remained a powerful threat in Yemen. Months of political turmoil in the Mideast nation has helped the group grow stronger.

WORLD BRIEFS

Jamaica PM: Coke saga a reason for his resignation

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaica's outgoing leader said Sunday that public perceptions about his handling of a U.S. extradition request for drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke contributed to his recent decision to resign. In a nationally televised address, Prime Minister Bruce Golding said questions about the role he played in the Coke saga, which he said affected him deeply, have remained a source of concern. "I cannot allow the challenges we face and the issues that we as a people must confront to be smothered or overpowered by this saga and the emotions that they ignite. It would not be fair to my country; it would not be fair to my party," Golding said.

Syria opposition launches national council

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian dissidents on Sunday formally established a broad-based national council designed to overthrow President Bashar Assad's regime, which they accused of pushing the country to the brink of civil war. Syrians took to the streets in celebration, singing and dancing. In a restive northern area, meanwhile, gunmen killed the 21-year-old son of Syria's top Sunni Muslim cleric in an ambush, the state-run news agency reported. The cleric, Grand Mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun, is considered a close supporter of Assad's regime and has echoed its claims that the unrest in Syria is the result of a foreign conspiracy.

Police find 7 bodies dumped in Pacific resort

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—The bullet-riddled, bound bodies of seven men were dumped Sunday at a downtown bus stop in the Pacific resort town of Zihuatanejo, police said, as drug violence claimed at least 20 people this weekend along a stretch of coastal tourist destinations. A photograph published in the local newspaper El Diario de Zihuatanejo showed signed messages lying near or on top of the bloody, half-naked men, whose feet were tied to a street pole. The messages claimed to be from The Knights Templar, an offshoot of the pseudo-religious La Familia drug cartel. Drug gangs are known for leaving threatening messages at crime scenes.

Focus

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—Five years after President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against Mexico's five main drug cartels, the nation is now dominated by two powerful organizations that appear poised for a one-on-one battle to control drug markets and trafficking routes.

AP

In this Thursday Sept. 22, 2011 file photo, a plastic sheet covers the body of a pirated DVD vendor at the central market in Acapulco, Mexico. The Pacific resort city of Acapulco has been hit by increased violence as drug gangs battle for control of the region.

2 powerful cartels dominate in MEXICO DRUG WAR

The government's success in killing or arresting some cartel leaders has fractured most of the other gangs to such an extent that they have devolved into quarreling bands, or been forced to operate as subsidiaries of the two main cartels. That has often meant expanded territory and business opportunities for the hyper-violent Zetas and drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's Sinaloa cartel.

"They are the two most successful cartels, or at least they have been able to expand in recent years," said drug trade and security expert Jorge Chabat.

Mexican federal authorities, who asked not to be named for security reasons, told The Associated Press that the Zeta and Sinaloa cartels are now the nation's two dominant drug traffickers. One or the other is present almost everywhere in Mexico, but officials are braced to see what happens next in a drug war that has already claimed an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 lives. So far, the signs are not hopeful.

In the Gulf coast seaport of Veracruz, 35 bound, tortured bodies were dumped onto a main thoroughfare during the height of rush hour on Sept. 20. The killers are presumed to be aligned with the Sinaloa cartel, while the victims were apparently linked to the Zetas, who took hold of the important seaport in 2010. In a clash in May, more than two dozen people—most of them Zetas—were killed when they tried to infiltrate the Sinaloa's territory in the Pacific Coast state of Nayarit.

When Calderon took office in December 2006, he said the drug cartels were trying to take over the country. He launched the government's first broad attempt to fight the gangs, deploying thousands of soldiers to capture cartel members and dismantle the organizations.

At the time, the Zetas were not even a separate cartel, but rather an armed enforcement wing of the Gulf cartel, a role created in the late 1990s when they were recruited from an elite army unit. Sometime around 2010, after a falling-out between Gulf and Zeta gunmen, the Zetas split off, ushering in what is possibly the bloodiest chapter of Mexico's narco wars. Within less than two years, the Zetas had taken control of the seaport and most of the Gulf's former territory.

According to Chabat, the two have survived the government crackdown because they have been more skilled than their weaker counterparts. He said the new alignment may make it easier for government forces to target the two big cartels, as opposed to fighting half a dozen of them.

"The question is whether the Sinaloa cartel and Zetas are going to break at some point or not," said Chabat.

"Right now they are very strong, but if in two or three years these cartels are pulverized, they may say that (the drug war) was a success."

Both the "mega" cartels want to control seaports for shipping drugs from South and Central America, and border towns, for getting the drugs into the United States.

Sinaloa has long been based on the country's northwest Pacific coast, with occasional incursions farther east along the border. In recent years, it has spread both east and south, reaching into Central America.

The Zetas, once confined to a stretch of the northern Gulf coast, have grown the most, pushing into central Mexico, and as far south as Guatemala.

Strategies differ. While the Sinaloa cartel is known for forging temporary alliances, officials have said the Zetas are believed to scorn them, preferring direct control of territory. There appears little chance the two groups will ever agree to split their turf; instead, Mexico may be headed into a battle between the two cartels, with each seeking to exterminate the other.

"I see the Sinaloa Federation and the Zetas as being the two polarizing forces in the Mexican criminal system ... and between the two, an array of other smaller groups aligned with one or the other, " said Samuel Logan, director of Southern Pulse, a security consulting firm.

Their operations differ too. The Zetas are involved in human trafficking and other illegal businesses, as well as the drug trade. They have committed some of the worst massacres in the Mexican drug wars and engage in a violence so brutal authorities have called the cartel "irrational." The Sinaloan hit men, on the other hand, appear to be more focused on the drug business and are less randomly violent.

Zetas often dress in fake military gear, and have erected military-style training camps. Sinaloa gunmen, like other narcotics gangs, are more discreet, favoring ski masks and black clothing.

"Sinaloa has done well by flying under the radar. They're comparatively less violent, though they're no saints," said Andrew Selee, director of the Washington-based Mexico Institute. "The Zetas have certainly gotten bigger since they split with the Gulf, but whether that will amount to a long-term ability to control and defend the territories where they have a presence is a little less clear.

"In reality, they're much thinner, where Sinaloa is hierarchical and compact."

Both the big cartels have also been known to launch "spoiler" attacks, aimed at making trouble on an opponent's turf, even though they have little chance of truly encroaching on it. They have sometimes even launched "poison" attacks on civilians on an opponent's turf, hoping the rival will be blamed.

In between the two giants, smaller, fragmented remains of vanquished cartels fight their own bloody battles.

On the outskirts of Mexico City, the Knights Templar cartel appears to be fighting Beltran-Leyva remnants, and the same two forces—plus the Zetas—have been battling for Acapulco, terrorizing the Pacific coast resort.

Battles among various cartels proliferate in Mexico's most violent cities, including Monterrey, where the Gulf cartel is fighting the Zetas.

But Selee notes that the Veracruz fighting may represent a new stage in which the two big gangs take each other head-on as they move deeper into each other's territory. The battle may have opened in May, when the Zetas apparently sent a convoy of fighters into Sinaloa territory in the Pacific coast state of Nayarit.

For all of the Zetas' bloody reputation—they have been known to massacre the families of police or soldiers who had already died fighting them—the incursion didn't go well: 28 presumed Zetas were found slaughtered by the side of a highway.

Soon after, in July, a group of two dozen armed men posted a video on the Internet, identifying themselves as "Mata Zetas"—literally, Zeta Killers—and said they were from a group allied with Sinaloa to hunt Zetas.

A Mexican military official who could not be quoted by name for security reasons said that besides the tit-for-tat aspect of the Veracruz killings, Sinaloa may also want control of the port as a link in the shipping route from Central America.

But Logan sees another reason for a group aligned with Sinaloa to attack deep into Zeta territory in Veracruz—to distract the Zetas from their next target: Guadalajara.

Mexico's second-largest city also has seen a rise in drug violence in the last year. It was long the home of Sinaloa's methamphetamine-trafficking arm run by Guzman lieutenant Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel, who was killed in a shootout with federal police in July 2010. Since then, factions of Coronel's operation have been fighting for control, including the New Generation and another group known as the Resistance. The Zetas have taken over neighboring Zacatecas state in their push west, and are eyeing Guadalajara both for the meth trade and for extortion potential.

"The Zetas aren't good for business. They do what they have to because they don't have the distribution networks of the Gulf or Sinaloa. So they have to diversify into kidnapping and extortion," said a U.S. law enforcement official in Mexico, who couldn't be identified for security reasons.

Logan said there are rumors that some factions fighting the New Generation are ready to join with the Zetas.

"That's got to concern El Chapo," he said, of the Sinaloan leader. "Guadalajara has been a huge part of the meth trade for years, El Chapo's bread and butter. If the Zetas take that, it won't be good for El Chapo."

Both big cartels are trying to cover their actions with public relations campaigns, as is now customary. The Zetas hung banners in several Veracruz towns, accusing the military of rights abuses and favoring Sinaloa.

The Mata Zetas have come out with another video, in which they claim to have moved into Veracruz to protect the public from Zeta kidnappings and extortions. The men's demeanor and language evoked a military style more than that of a gang foot soldier, raising a specter of a paramilitary response.

"We are the armed wing of the people, and for the people," says a man with a ski mask, who is seen in the video sitting at a table reading from a prepared statement. He is flanked by four other masked associates, each with a full water bottle placed on the tablecloth. "We are anonymous warriors, faceless, but proudly Mexican."

Following the firearms

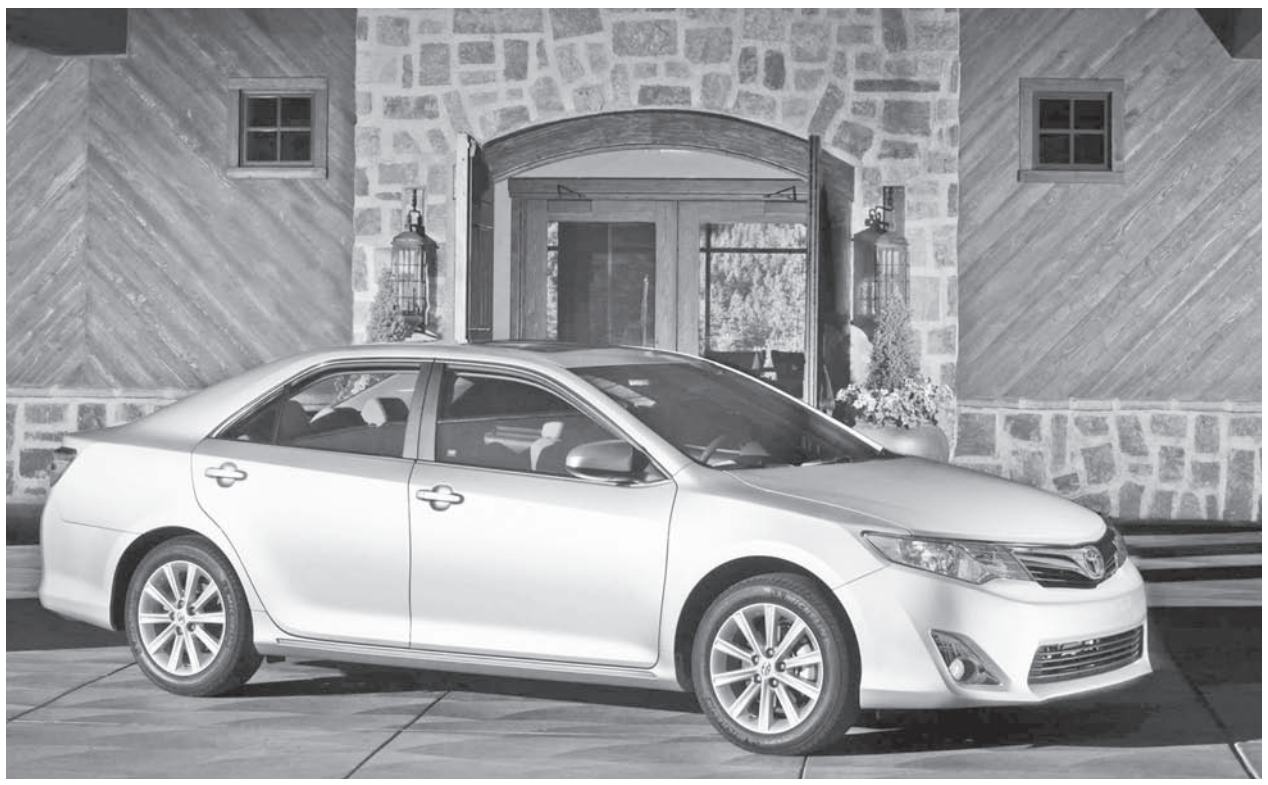
Federal agents monitored the sale of 1,765 weapons sold to suspected agents of Mexican drug cartels, at least 195 of which were found in Mexico. More than 600 others were recovered in Arizona.

© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. attorney's office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

Overdrive

2012 Toyota Camry is subdued exhilaration

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES



TOYOTA/MCT

The engine of the 2012 Toyota Camry XLE pulls 178 horsepower and 170 pound-feet of torque out of a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with a hearty degree of pep and enthusiasm.

Say you wake up tomorrow and decide you want to learn to play tennis. Maybe you like Serena Williams' method of anger management, or perhaps it's Novak Djokovic's backhand you're after.

It's likely you'd head to your local athletically inclined big-box store and pick out the Toyota Camry of tennis rackets: something from a well-known brand that is reliably middling; it is free of drama, superfluity or excess cost; one that will simply get the job done.

This 2012 Camry is no different. Starting at $22,755 when it rolls into dealerships next month, it is an apparatus, a means to an end.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s midsize sedan has served this purpose conscientiously for years, and Americans have rewarded it with corresponding success at the dealership. Since 1997, more Camrys have been sold each year than any other car in the U.S., with the exception of 2001.

Like any champ, the Camry has plenty of competitors trying to beat it. Nissan's aging Altima is the second-bestselling car this year, while peers such as the Kia Optima, Hyundai Sonata, the new Volkswagen Passat and forthcoming Chevrolet Malibu are also rapidly making improvements in the content, style and build quality of the segment.

Although the 2012 Camry and its hybrid version certainly improve in these areas, the updates are incremental and calculated. Don't expect it to vault above its competitors.

The most notable changes are the Camry's looks. The car wears all-new sheet metal while maintaining the identical length, width and wheelbase of the previous model. The new look is evolutionary, with added creases and angles replacing softer lines throughout the car. It's a good look and will enable the new Camry to handsomely blend in at mall parking lots nationwide.

The new aesthetics continue inside the car as well. The design of the dashboard and instrument panel is cleaner and simpler, and a layered crease accented by contrast stitching breaks up the dash in front of the passenger. Most surfaces are covered in pleasing, soft-touch materials.

If the buttons to control the radio and optional navigation system seem large enough for your glaucoma-afflicted great aunt to see from the back seat, it's because Toyota caught a lot of flak for how small the same buttons were on the previous Camry. At least they're clearly labeled and easy to use.

Overall, the space wizards at Toyota managed to wring out an interior that is marginally bigger than before, despite the car's footprint remaining the same. Rear legroom and interior space are among the most in the class, and a quintet of 6-foot-plus people can ride comfortably.

Although most spatial concerns are nicely addressed, the quality of the Camry's features leaves something to be desired, especially when cast in the light of what others are offering.

The navigation screen on the preproduction XLE model I tested was smaller than it was in the previous Camry and one of the smallest in the segment. This creates a cramped screen with less usable information, a flaw exacerbated by the cheap-looking user-interface.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $22,755 (including destination charge)
Price, as tested (estimated): $29,380
Powertrain: 2.5-liter four-cylinder with dual intelligent variable valve timing; six-speed automatic transmission with manual shifting and sport mode
Horsepower: 178 at 6,000 rpm
Torque: 170 pound-feet at 4,100 rpm
0-60: 8.8 seconds*
Curb weight: 3,245 pounds
Wheelbase: 109.3 inches
Overall length: 189.2 inches
EPA fuel economy: 25 mpg city/35 mpg highway
Final thoughts: Enough to keep the sales crown, but its reign is slipping.

*Estimate by Car and Driver magazine

And I was a little disappointed at the quality of the interior. Everything looked good and precisely assembled, but if you elbowed a door panel or prodded the plastic pieces in the lower part of the dashboard, they seemed flimsy and cut-rate.

Finally, although the trunk grows slightly, its overall capacity still lags behind most competitors. Also unfortunate is the surprisingly small pass-through space when you fold down the Camry's rear seats.

Driving the new Camry isn't as overwhelmingly boring as you'd expect. The base engine pulls 178 horsepower and 170 pound-feet of torque out of a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with a hearty degree of pep and enthusiasm.

This engine is paired with a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shifting and sport mode. The Environmental Protection Agency rates the combination at 25 miles per gallon in the city and 35 mpg on the highway. Over 240 miles of testing, I averaged 25 mpg. No zero-to-60 times were available from Toyota, but Car and Driver magazine estimated the four-cylinder would do it in 8.8 seconds.

My biggest complaint about the handling lies with the Camry's steering. I'm not expecting Porsche precision here, but to pilot the Camry is like driving while wearing a pair of Novocain mittens. More feedback, please.

The four-cylinder Camry comes in four variants: the base L, the LE, the sporty SE and the XLE. The $29,380 XLE I tested included the navigation system, a JBL sound system with 10 speakers and iPod connectivity, backup camera, leather seats, heated front seats and alloy wheels.

Buyers looking for more power can consider the 248-horsepower V-6, which starts at $27,400, while green-minded Camry buyers should consider the new hybrid Camry.

This hybrid sees the biggest powertrain change from the previous version of any of the new Camrys, as it now has a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine paired with a 105-kilowatt electric motor for a total power output of 200 horsepower.

The hybrid's strong suit is its power and complete lack of anemia that can plague other hybrids. The system also transitions seamlessly from electric power to gas power or a combination of both, without the trademark shudder or lag. Only when I tapped the hyperactive brakes was I reminded that this was a hybrid.

Also new for the hybrid is its lower price point; the LE version that I drove starts at around $26,660. The car is rated by the EPA as currently the most efficient in this segment, at 43 mpg in the city and 39 on the highway. My 75-mile weekend with it saw an average of 34 mpg. The slightly heavier hybrid XLE gets 40 mpg in the city and 38 on the highway.

All Camrys come with safety features including 10 air bags, traction control, antilock brakes and a tire-pressure monitoring system. And, as with previous Camrys, this one is American-made, with plants in Kentucky and Indiana doing the labor.

Camry faithful will undoubtedly salute the improved efficiency and aesthetics that add to the car's ethos, and probably will reward it with continued success at the dealership. The trouble is, Toyota's dedication to the conventional may mean a methodical yet more daring competitor may one day steal that sales crown.

UNDER THE HOOD

Breaking down hybrid options

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I've noticed more and more hybrid cars on the road and have begun to wonder if I should own one someday. I confess to having no knowledge of how they work and if one might suit my needs. I'm not as interested in what's under the hood as I am of the overall concept, and pros and cons.—Agatha Lowe

ANSWER: OK, I get it. I'll do my best to steer clear of a technical answer. Hybrid vehicles utilize a blend of two propulsion methods to provide optimum efficiency, and the breadth of application is huge. There are hybrid trains, planes, buses, tractors and boats as well as passenger cars and trucks. A typical hybrid car is equipped with a smallish, high-efficiency engine; one or more electric motor or generators; a suitcase-sized battery pack; and a bunch of smart electronics to manage the group.

What makes a hybrid system efficient is the harvesting and reuse of what would have been wasted energy. Each time the brakes are applied in a conventional car, kinetic energy is converted to heat and lost to the atmosphere. A hybrid system uses mostly the generator and some brakes to slow the vehicle, recycling a significant amount of energy to the battery pack for future use. Battery power can be used to propel the vehicle solely by electric means at lower speeds, although not very far, or to assist the gasoline engine during acceleration.

Electric motors have amazing grunt at low speed, which is exactly where a gasoline engine could use some help. Hybrid vehicles typically utilize additional efficiency-enhancing features such as an engine optimized for fuel efficiency, a low-drag body shape, electric operation of air conditioning and steering, engine shut-off at stops, and easy-rolling tires.

You'll pay several thousand dollars more for a hybrid vehicle than for a conventional one. The payback time depends on the price of fuel as well as how and where you drive. Driving technique can make a significant difference in fuel economy with these vehicles, and they are most efficient under city driving conditions. Resale values have been very good due to hybrid popularity. In addition to dollar issues, a hybrid vehicle reduces oil use and produces significantly less carbon dioxide and other tailpipe emissions than a conventional vehicle.

The added complexity of a hybrid vehicle concerns me a bit, but it seems the carmakers employ their best and brightest engineers to design them, and reliability has been excellent. Battery replacement will be necessary someday, but they carry a long warranty and will probably be the second owner's concern. Replacement cost will likely be two thousand dollars or higher, but this should come down with improvements in technology.

Alternatives to hybrid vehicles include a growing number of conventional vehicles employing engine stop-start function and high-tech engine features. Clean diesel vehicles have vastly improved in many ways and can be very impressive. Other alternatives are electric cars such as the Nissan Leaf, which is electric-only, and the Chevy Volt, which uses electric power for about 40 miles before relying on gas. A plug-in Prius, with far greater electric-only range, will be here next year and may prove to be the best blend of all.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

LA's latest art project is 340 tons and rock solid

By JOHN ROGERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—King Sisyphus, it turns out, had little on the folks at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was condemned by the gods to push a giant rock up a hill for eternity. In modern-day LA, the city's largest museum has spent months—and $5 million to $10 million—trying to get a 340-ton boulder from a dusty quarry in Riverside onto its campus west of downtown.

When the teardrop-shaped chunk of granite finally arrives it will become the focal point of acclaimed earth artist Michael Heizer's latest creation, "Levitated Mass." Museum visitors by the thousands are expected to walk under what will be one of the largest environmental art creations ever placed in an urban setting.

Heizer "came up in a generation that wasn't just about what you could create or sculpt in the studio," said Rochelle Steiner, dean of the University of Southern California's Roski School of Fine Arts. "It was about how you could intervene in the elements, in your own environment, in the landscape, and how the environment became not just your subject matter but your situation as well."

The reclusive Heizer is perhaps best known for "Double Negative," the 1,500-foot (450-meter)-long land sculpture he cut into a desert mesa in a remote section of southern Nevada.

"Levitated Mass" will be a major coup for the museum, Steiner said, and will provide the general public a rare opportunity to see Heizer's work up close.

But before that can happen, the museum has to get the rock here, and that's proving a Sisyphean task.

At the Stone Valley quarry, on the outskirts of Riverside, a 196-wheel, 44-axle transport vehicle strong enough to hold more than a million pounds (450,000 kilograms) is being constructed. With drivers, steerers and police escorts, as many as 60 people could be involved in the move.

"It will be an entourage," laughed Rick Albrecht, who is supervising the rock's move for Emmert International, an outfit that specializes in moving really big stuff.

Although Emmert has never hauled a rock the size of a two-story house before, Albrecht appears undaunted by the challenge.

"This might be the first time for a rock but our company moved a building in Salt Lake City that was equivalent to a five-story," he said during a recent day at the quarry, as workers with welding torches worked on the transport vehicle. "It was almost 60 foot (18 meters) wide, it was a little over a hundred feet long, and we had to jack it up 14 feet (4.2 meters), spin it 180 degrees, move it across the street and jack it back down."

Compared to that, he indicated, the rock will be a piece of cake.

The hardest part so far has been getting permission from the three counties, the state and the numerous cities through which Emmert will haul the boulder.

The museum has rescheduled the departure date several times as it works with local officials to find a route acceptable to everybody. The rock is now tentatively scheduled to leave the quarry sometime later this month.

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2011 photo, Joe Schofield stands in front of a 340-ton rock as he and other workers prepare to transport the rock from Riverside County to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art at Stone Valley Materials in Riverside, Calif.

The 60-mile (100-kilometer) trip to the museum that would normally take about an hour in light freeway traffic is expected to take the rock at least 10 days.

It will rarely travel faster than 5 mph (8 kph) and its delivery people may have to drive as far as 20 or 30 miles (32 or 48 kilometers) out of their way to get around various obstacles like utility wires and freeway overpasses.

The move, coming just months after repairs to a major freeway overpass had most of Los Angeles staying off the freeways for a weekend, has reawakened "Carmageddon" traffic nightmare scenarios.

Albrecht downplays such concerns. Although the transport vehicle is as wide as three freeway lanes and nearly as long as a football field, he notes it will only travel a few hours each night when traffic is lightest. People along the route will be told in advance that it's headed their way.

Once the rock arrives it will straddle a 456-foot (139-meter)-long trench in such a way that people who walk under it will have the illusion that it is floating unsecured above them. California seismic officials had to sign off on the project to make sure no one would be squashed by the boulder should an earthquake strike.

While he's kept a low profile, museum officials say Heizer himself has been involved in every aspect of the installation and may even show up for the planned unveiling in November.

For most of the last 40 years, the 66-year-old artist has been creating a Mount Rushmore-sized project called "City" near his home in the central Nevada desert.

Although he has carefully, some would say obsessively, kept the public from seeing it, photos that have surfaced show a number of huge, pyramid-like buildings, some as high as 80 feet (25 meters), stretching across more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) of desert terrain.

Before he started on "City," Heizer was already envisioning "Levitated Mass" and spent decades searching quarries for the right rock.

He found it in Riverside six years ago, about the same time his longtime friend Michael Govan became head of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Govan arrived with a mandate to install large outdoor works that would anchor the museum's campus. "Urban Light," contemporary artist Chris Burden's stunning display of 202 restored antique street lamps, was placed in front three years ago.

"Levitated Mass" will go in back, literally just about a stone's throw from the famous La Brea Tar Pits and the dinosaur fossils they hold.

As word of the project has spread around town, some critics have come forth, complaining that the money could be better spent on adding other works to the museum's eclectic collection, which includes everything from 6th century Mexican sculpture to works by Rembrandt and Picasso.

Steiner indicated they aren't seeing the big picture, that "Levitated Mass," in tandem with "Urban Light," will give the museum two different but equally impressive displays of modern Western U.S. art.

"Chris Burden is an LA artist. Michael Heizer is an artist who is interested in the landscape of the West," she said. "The choices (of those two) are not coincidental but a statement about LA and its larger surroundings."

Rooney ends '60 Minutes' run of 33 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Rooney insisted he's not retiring. He's a writer, and a writer never stops being a writer.

Even so, he delivered his final weekly essay on "60 Minutes" Sunday night, his last in his 33 years with the newsmagazine. It was a moment, he said he has dreaded.

Rooney

"I wish I could do this forever. I can't, though," he said.

CBS News announced last week that the 92-year-old Rooney would be stepping down from his well-entrenched berth on "60 Minutes" after delivering his 1,097th commentary.

"I probably haven't said anything here that you didn't already know or have already thought," he said. "That's what a writer does. A writer's job is to tell the truth."

Rooney began his long career by writing the words for people to say who were on TV or radio. Then when he began his weekly "A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney" in 1978, he began saying them on camera himself, though not as a television personality, but as "a writer who reads what he's written."

Rooney said in his farewell piece that he has lived a lucky life, luckier than most. But befitting his trademark crotchety nature, he voiced one parting complaint: He doesn't like being famous, nor does he like being bothered by fans.

"I spent my first 50 years trying to become well known as a writer, and the next 30 trying to avoid being famous," he said. "I walk down the street now or go to a football game and people shout, `Hey, Andy!' And I hate that."

So if you see him in a restaurant, Rooney said as he signed off, "please, just let me eat my dinner."

'Percy Jackson' author planning book on Norse gods

NEW YORK (AP)—After stops in the ancient worlds of Egypt and Greece, Rick Riordan's ever-traveling mind has booked a flight North.

"The Son Of Neptune," the second of his "Heroes of Olympus" series, comes out Tuesday and already has hit No. 1 on Amazon.com. In the spring, his next "Kane Chronicles" book will be released, continuing his series based on Egyptian mythology. And Riordan will soon get to work on a project he had planned years ago, before his "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" stories made him a million-seller and the Greek gods cool for kids—a series influenced by old Norse tales.

"The Norse gods are so wild. They have this wild, barbaric energy you don't associate with the Greeks," he said in an interview with The Associated Press over the weekend, seated in a conference room at a Radisson Hotel overlooking Greeley Square in Manhattan, where a prerelease party for "Son of Neptune" would soon begin.

"There are so many fantastic stories and I want to bring Thor and Odin and the other gods into the modern world, just like I did with the Greeks and Percy Jackson," Riordan said. "I'll give the books an urban setting and have young people interacting with the Norse gods."

A Norse series has long been rumored and the author has signed with Disney Publishing Worldwide, his current publisher, for at least three books. Riordan fans, known to remind and pester their parents for months about an upcoming release, will probably have to wait until 2015, the author said. So far, the Norse series is still in the outline phase, and he has "Heroes of Olympus" and "Kane Chronicle" books to write.

In the post-Harry Potter universe, Riordan is a favorite choice for young fantasy readers, and Percy, the boy with a god for a father and the mortal afflictions of dyslexia and ADHD, is a popular idol. "The Heroes of Olympus," a spinoff of the Jackson series, has an announced first printing of 3 million. E-books are the trend for adults, but Riordan, like other children's authors, believes his readers prefer traditional books.

"When I write, I'm still imagining a kid reading it on paper," he told the AP. "I read e-books when I travel, but in general I still prefer holding an old-fashioned book in my hands. There's a special, tactile experience." A standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 kids and parents turned out for the "Son of Neptune" festival, where the 47-year-old Riordan's plain blazer and slacks looked absolutely human amid actors and fans alike dressed in togas, wreaths, crowns and even a charioteer's helmet. A toga station was set up for those who arrived without costume, and attendees were also presented with pens, posters and a chance to sit in a "party chariot."

A mid-afternoon rainstorm, like a divine tantrum, crashed late enough for performers dressed as Aphrodite, Athena and other gods and goddesses to read from the new book and for medals to be presented to fans quizzed on ancient Greece and Rome. Riordan himself came out to answer a few questions, the kind you don't expect from your average middle-schooler. One noted that Percy's face on the cover of "Son of Neptune" has a scar that shouldn't be possible for a boy dipped in the River Styx.

A boy named Lamont asked Riordan which god he considered the strongest.

"World wars have been fought over this question," Riordan responded.

Another fan wondered if Riordan had seen the film version of "The Lightning Thief," his first Jackson novel.

No, he hasn't, Riordan said, and he probably never will.

"The images from the book you make in your head are always going to be the best images," he said.

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Dream House

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A successful New York writer (Daniel Craig) discovers that the country holds just as much menace as the big city after moving his family to a cozy New England town and discovering that their gorgeous new home was once the site of a brutal murder. The closer the writer and his wife (Rachel Weisz) get to their new neighbor (Naomi Watts), the more that details begin to emerge about the slaying of a devoted mother and her two children. Jim Sheridan (In America, Brothers) directs a script by David Loucka (The Dream Team, Problem Child).

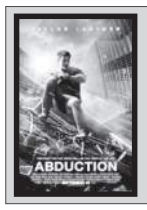
What's Your Number?

Friday		4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Anna Faris, Chris Evans
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Inspired by author Karyn Bosnak's novel 20 Times a Lady, director Mark Mylod's freewheeling comedy tells the tale of one hopelessly single women who's convinced she's passed up the man of her dreams. Upon reading a magazine article that leaves her dejected about her future marriage prospects, Ally Darling (Anna Faris) begins to fear that one of her many ex-boyfriends may have been "the one that got away." Now, with a little help from her mischievous neighbor (Chris Evans), Ally is paying a visit to each of her exes in order to reel in the perfect catch.

★ ★ ★



Abduction

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Taylor Lautner, Alfred Molina
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Dolphin Tales

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd
Children's/family • Rated PG

Killer Elite

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Robert De Niro, Clive Owen, Jason Statham
Action • Rated R

Drive

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan
Thriller • Rated R

Contagion

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard
Action • Rated PG 13

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Jerry Seinfeld talks comedy, critics, cars

By NICOLE BRODEUR
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—Jerry Seinfeld on the phone is nothing like Jerry Seinfeld on the stage.

Ask him what his current stand-up act is about, and he'll toss you a few bones.

"Let's see, what have I got," Seinfeld said from New York City the other day. Sounded like he was sorting through note cards.

"Well, it's about the annoying word 'hydrate,' that everyone is constantly advising me to 'hydrate,'" he said. "It's about the word 'tired.' Words that are so thick in the air."

And energy drinks. Five hours? Really?

"I mean, how they came up with that amount of time just fascinates me," Seinfeld said. "Was that in a lab? Five hours. It's just such a weird chunk of time to get revved up. It doesn't get you through work. It's too long for an evening. Who's working from 1 to 6 is really the question."

Funny. So what else is in there?

"In where?" he asked. "Oh, you just want me to recite my act? Your job is to interpret."

Things were taking a strange turn for me and the man with the puffy shirt and garageful of Porsches. Was he serious, or...? Couldn't tell.

Seinfeld told me about the tour he just finished in Europe, where, he said, critics have a better sense of what he does up there. They appreciate every carefully crafted phrase, every pause, every observation like it was a six-course meal.

Here in America, we writers just scarf down what took him months to create, then sit back and burp out the laughs.

"Americans, when they write about comedy, they just try to remember the jokes, and then they mangle them and misquote them and print them," he said. "And it's like, 'Well, what did you think?'

"They're (European critics) actually interested in the craft of being a stand-up comic. Whereas, in America, we just sort of take it for granted that a person can do it, and 'here's what they said.'"

That may be true, but not in this case.

Didn't I just tell Seinfeld how much I loved his 2002 documentary "Comedian," which chronicled how he wrote and polished a completely new act, testing it in small clubs, running it past comedian cohorts like Chris Rock and Colin Quinn, before suiting up to debut the hour-plus final in Washington, D.C.?

Maybe he didn't hear me...

"... So it's like, why are you hired to watch a comedian if all you're going to try and do is transcribe what they say?" he asked. "It's a complete abdication of any creative writing, which is what I thought you were hired for at the paper.

"There is more to it than just the punch line."

I know that, and I think the audiences know that.

That's why they pay 75 bucks a seat: To see the guy who, like them, knows how bad cabs smell, who remembers the joy and frustration of Halloween night. No one can spin those little memories into gold—figuratively and literally—the way Jerry Seinfeld can.

Comedy is part of everything he does. At home, he and his kids (he has three, ages 10, 8 and 6) play baseball inside and perfect imitations of their relatives.

"That's what's great about kids," he said. "They don't know what's inappropriate. It's very fun to be a comedian and have kids because your mind is very much in tune with theirs."

There's an ongoing debate with his son about chocolate-chip vs. oatmeal-raisin cookies.

Seinfeld says chocolate is one thing and cookie is another. There's no reason to combine the two things. Same with the raisin and the oatmeal, Seinfeld's son will say.

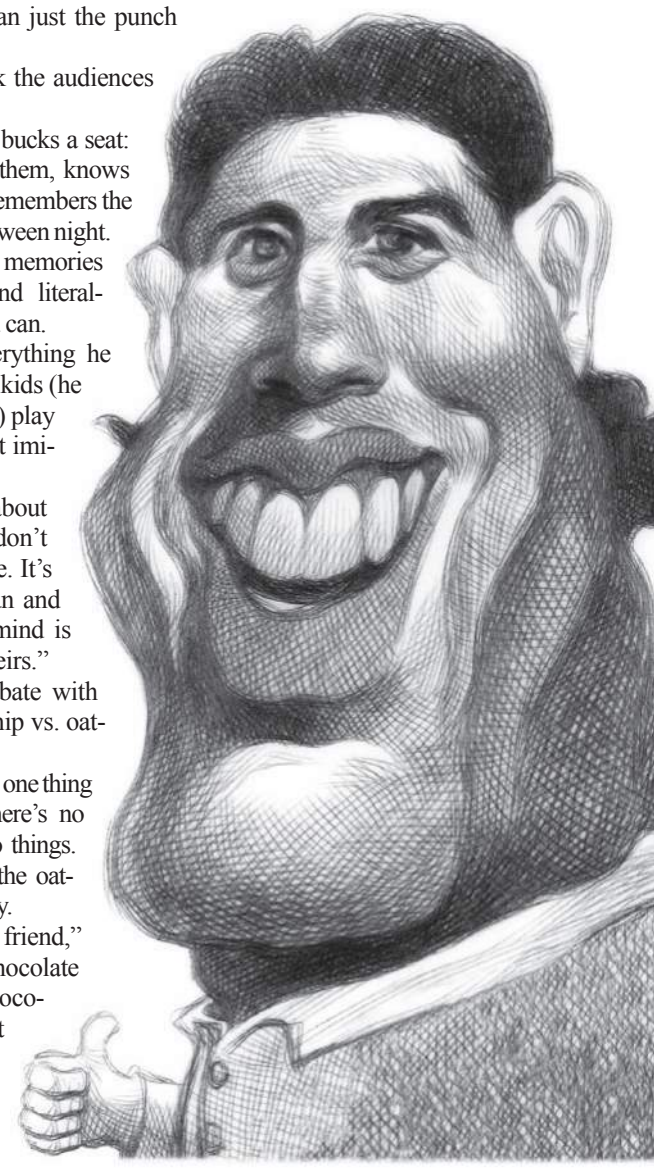
"But the raisin needs a friend," Seinfeld will say. "Chocolate doesn't need a friend. Chocolate's got nothing but friends."

That's what he does at home. He also collects cars—Porsches are his weakness—and is on the hunt for a Saab 96 and any '70s Fiat "in good condition."

And he's always looking for bits. Always putting together the next act.

"The only reason I do it is because it is still a fantastic feeling for me and for the audience when you connect, when that show works in that room, that night," he said. "To me, there is nothing like it...nothing quite like a stand-up comic who is there because he really wants to be there.

"And that's what I am about. It's really all I do."



'Dolphin' deposes 'Lion' with $14.2M to grab No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A dolphin has dethroned "The Lion King" at the weekend box office.

The Warner Bros. family film "Dolphin Tale" held up well with $14.2 million in its second weekend to take the No. 1 spot from "The Lion King," the Disney reissue that had been the top movie for the past two weekends.

"The Lion King" slipped to third place with $11.1 million, just behind Sony's Brad Pitt baseball tale "Moneyball," which was No. 2 in its second weekend with $12.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Dolphin Tale" features Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman in a real-life story about strangers who team up to help an injured dolphin. The movie had debuted a week earlier at No. 3, closely behind "The Lion King" and "Moneyball," but it earned good word-of-mouth that kept fans coming.

"There's just something about a dolphin," said Jeff Goldstein, general sales manager for Warner Bros. "It just looks interesting, and it looks wholesome and compelling and fun."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Dolphin Tale,"** $14.2 million.
2. **"Moneyball,"** $12.5 million.
3. **"The Lion King,"** $11.1 million ($1.8 million international).
4. **"50/50,"** $8.85 million.
5. **"Courageous,"** $8.8 million.
6. **"Dream House,"** $8.2 million.
7. **"Abduction,"** $5.65 million ($6.2 million international).
8. **"What's Your Number?",** $5.6 million ($2.2 million international).
9. **"Contagion,"** $5 million ($3.4 million international).
10. **"Killer Elite,"** $4.9 million.

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. **"The Smurfs,"** $10.7 million.
2. **"Friends with Benefits,"** $8.5 million.
3. **"Johnny English Reborn,"** $8.4 million.
4. **"Fast Five,"** $6.6 million.
5. **"Crazy, Stupid, Love,"** $6.4 million.
6. **"Abduction,"** $6.2 million.
7. **"Final Destination 5,"** $4.2 million.
8. **"Contagion,"** $3.5 million.
9. **"Rise of the Planet of the Apes,"** $3.4 million.
10. **"What's Your Number?",** $2.2 million.

The three holdover films held off a rush of new wide releases. In a photo finish for the No. 4 spot were Summit Entertainment's cancer comic drama "50/50," starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen, with $8.85 million and Sony's Christian-themed police drama "Courageous" with $8.8 million.

Debuting at No. 6 with $8.2 million was Universal's "Dream House," a fright flick starring Daniel Craig, Rachel Weisz and Naomi Watts. The weekend's other new wide release, the 20th Century Fox romantic comedy "What's Your Number?" starring Anna Faris and Chris Evans, flopped at No. 8 with $5.6 million.

It was an unusual weekend when carry-over films continued to rule the market, with family crowds particularly strong.

"Normally, fall is when you get Oscar contenders and R-rated, more-challenging films," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "But now looking at `Lion King' and `Dolphin Tale,' that says summer is not the only time when family audiences want to go to the movies."

"Dolphin Tale" raised its total to $37.5 million, while "Moneyball" lifted its domestic haul to $38.5 million. "The Lion King" has pulled in $79.7 million in its 3-D re-release, adding to the nearly $800 million worldwide the animated blockbuster earned in its original 1994 run and a 2002 reissue.

Liz Hurley engaged to Australian ex-cricketer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—Former Australia cricketer Shane Warne says he and British actress Elizabeth Hurley are engaged.

Speaking after a round of golf at the Dunhill Links Championship pro-am in Scotland on Saturday, Warne said "Yes, I can confirm we are engaged."

British newspapers showed pictures of Hurley wearing a large engagement ring while she watched Warne playing at the Kingsbarns club in east Scotland.

In this Thursday, May 19, 2011 file photo former Australian cricketer Shane Warne, right, and British actress Elizabeth Hurley attend the launch of apparel brand "Spinners by Shane Warne" in Mumbai, India. AP

The couple have been together for 10 months.

Warne retired from international cricket in 2007 but played four seasons with the Rajasthan Royals in the lucrative Indian Premier League before calling it quits at the end of the 2011 IPL season.

Hurley dated actor Hugh Grant for more than a decade and was previously married to Indian businessman Arun Nayar.

Pepin says consumers may pay price of chefs' fame

NEW YORK (AP)—What price fame? Perhaps a raw deal on your meal, says Jacques Pepin.

The longtime dean of French cooking in the U.S. worries that so many up-and-coming chefs focus so much on book deals and television appearances they may lose sight of their real job.

"It's someone who is totally egocentric," Pepin said of chefs who chase fame. "And in that sense it does affect the customer because that person is not taking care of the customer. He doesn't give that customer his due in terms of time and effort for the money that the customer pays."

Pepin, who has starred in numerous public television cooking shows, said that when he speaks to culinary students today, nearly half aspire to write books or appear on TV. Pepin was being honored for his work in food during a tribute dinner at the New York Wine and Food Festival.

He said the culinary world's focus on fame marks a shift in how new chefs view their role.

"The idea of old was to conform yourself to a style of cooking, it was not to create a style of cooking," Pepin said during an interview before Saturday's dinner. "Now the chef is so much into 'I want to sign that dish and say I am the one who made that dish.'"

'Arrested Development' announces new show, movie

NEW YORK (AP)—The Bluth family's frozen banana stand may be back in business.

At an "Arrested Development" reunion Sunday at the New Yorker Festival, the creators and cast announced plans for a new TV show that spins off the short-lived but critically acclaimed TV show, which went off the air in 2006 after just three seasons. They also discussed more concrete plans for a much-awaited movie.

Creator Mitchell Hurwitz said the spinoff will feature nine or ten episodes focusing on each character and leading up to the movie. The first scene of the movie will be all the characters reunited.

The Fox show, which suffered low ratings despite its rabid fan base, starred Jason Bateman, Michael Cera and Portia de Rossi. They played members of a dysfunctional family who ran a collapsing real estate development company and frozen banana stand.

Shooting for the TV show is tentatively set to begin next summer. The movie doesn't have a release date, Hurwitz said, adding that the creative aspects have been largely worked out, but the business side is still being negotiated.

"We're all game," he said. "We've hated being coy, but we've been trying to put together this ambitious idea."

27 pianists from 13 countries compete in Louisiana

ALEXANDRIA, Louisiana (AP)—A chance to perform in St. Petersburg, Russia and at Carnegie Hall is bringing 27 pianists from 13 countries to compete in Alexandria.

The Louisiana International Piano Competition is also a chance for central Louisiana residents to meet and hear musicians from around the world, president David Holcombe told The Town Talk. Countries represented include Bulgaria, South Korea, Israel, Macedonia and Russia.

"I think that component of this event is extremely important," said Holcombe. "Our area is a poor area. The per capita income is $24,000 a year. Folks in that income range can't travel—certainly not international travel. So any activity that brings the world to Alexandria is a positive social experience."

The contest, plus workshops, master classes and a junior competition, has taken place every other year since 2005. This year it's Oct. 10-15.

Each entrant lives with an area family for the week of the competition.

First through third prizes include a performance at Carnegie Hall and $6,000, $3,000 and $1,000 respectively. First prize also includes a performance in Russia with the St. Petersburg Symphony, recording of a solo CD, a recital in the nation's capital as part of the Washington International Piano Festival, and recitals in Louisiana.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Clooney: Ohio roots influenced 'Ides of March'

CINCINNATI (AP)—George Clooney says his Ohio-Kentucky roots and his father's failed bid for political office influenced his upcoming film, "The Ides of March." Clooney tells The Cincinnati Enquirer he decided to film the movie in Cincinnati because he knows it well and thought it would be fun to shoot in his hometown. The movie is directed by Clooney, who stars as fictional presidential candidate and Pennsylvania Gov. Mike Morris. Co-star Ryan Gosling plays the governor's idealistic press secretary who learns quickly about dirty politics. Clooney tells the newspaper that the movie was inspired by his father Nick Clooney's unsuccessful 2004 run for Kentucky's 4th Congressional District. George says many of his character's political views are derived from his father's work as a columnist for the now-defunct newspaper The Cincinnati Post.

Mass. police: Singer owes $420K in child support

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Police say a singer known for his 1990 chart-topping love song was hauled off a Massachusetts stage and arrested on charges of owing $420,000 in unpaid child support. Steven Bernard Hill of Las Vegas was arrested Friday night at the MassMutual Center, where he was performing on tour. Hill performs as Stevie B and is best known for the song "Because I Love You (The Postman Song)." It reached No. 1 on the Billboard charts in late 1990. Springfield police Sgt. John M. Delaney tells the Springfield Republican that Hill was surprised by the arrest and concerned that he might miss a weekend show in Providence, R.I. Hill is scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

T.I., Taylor Swift perform surprise duet in Ga.

ATLANTA (AP)—Rapper T.I. has joined country star Taylor Swift in a surprise duet at her concert in Atlanta. Toward the end of Swift's set on Sunday night, she introduced T.I. by singing the opening chorus of his hit song "Live Your Life." The packed house at Philips Arena screamed once he stepped onstage for the unannounced appearance and started to rap. The two Grammy winners stood side-by-side as he rapped and she sang a vocal part originally handled by Rihanna. Swift has featured guests ranging from Justin Bieber to Nicki Minaj onstage during her tour. The Sunday show was a makeup performance for a July date that was postponed because she was sick. T.I. has made several appearances onstage since his release from a halfway house last month following 10 months in federal prison on a probation violation.

US TV pitchman dies in federal custody

PHOENIX (AP)—A U.S. Marshals Service spokesman says a Phoenix-based TV pitchman charged with running a nationwide scheme to sell essentially worthless Internet-based businesses has died in an apparent suicide while in federal custody. Spokesman Matt Hershey says Donald Lapre was found dead in his cell at a Florence facility Sunday morning. His trial was scheduled to begin Tuesday. Hershey says the death remains under investigation. A grand jury indicted Lapre in June on 41 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud and promotional money laundering. He was accused of overseeing and promoting the opportunity through his company called "The Greatest Vitamin in the World." The government says at least 220,000 victims in the scheme were defrauded of nearly $52 million.

Reflective older wife yearns to be loved and appreciated

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I wonder how many women feel just like me. I spent the best years of my life married to an abuser and cheater, raising three children who were my world.

Now, as I approach my twilight years, I have a sick husband who needs my care and three children who are self-sufficient, successful and self-serving. I feel used by all of them. I hear from them only when they need me to baby-sit, provide a shoulder to cry on during breakups, etc.

My husband is a sick old man who appears to be headed toward dementia, and I can't find the courage to walk away. I don't know what you can do for me because I know I'm only one of millions of women in the same position: We can't afford a divorce; we want to remain a part of our children's lives; yet we yearn to give our love to those who can return it and appreciate the loving, competent women we are. What are your thoughts on this?

LEFT BEHIND

DEAR LEFT BEHIND: Your family is not going to change. If you want change in your life, you will have to create it for yourself. Accept that you have been partly to blame for your current situation. You tolerated the abuse and cheating and focused so much attention on your children that they grew up thinking you would jump when they snapped their fingers.

If you want to be appreciated, stop acting like a martyr and make yourself less available to all of them. Use the time to carve out an identity of your own before it's too late. Donate some of that "empty" time to charities you believe in or causes you care about, and you will be appreciated. And while you're at it, talk to a lawyer and find out what your options are. You may find you're not as trapped as you think.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our three grandchildren have come to live with us because their mother got mixed up with drugs and their father died. The middle boy, "Clay," is such a picky eater, it borders on an eating disorder. He is 11, weighs 60 pounds and is skeletal to look at. He is the smallest child in his grade. He will eat chicken, potatoes, rice, some cereal and peanut butter sandwiches. One day he will like something, the next he won't. We have caught him making himself vomit after we have insisted he eat something.

We have tried not making a big issue about it, saving his plate for the next meal, making him sit at the table until he has eaten everything and had him see a psychologist for a year. Clay is a sweet, engaging child who has convinced two psychologists there is nothing wrong.

We know this is the way he has some control over his life, but we are fearful for his health and happiness. We have tried counseling in this community of limited mental health resources. Any suggestions?

IN A FOOD FIGHT IN ARKANSAS

DEAR IN A FOOD FIGHT: Yes. Stop turning mealtime into a battleground. Take Clay back to his pediatrician and find out whether or not his physical development falls into the range of normal. Explain that the boy is living on protein, starches and carbs and ask what supplemental vitamins he should take for his health.

So far, all you have accomplished has been to make your grandson associate mealtime with punishment, and that isn't conducive to anyone's health and happiness—not his and not yours. If the doctor says Clay is developing normally, then accept it, as well as the advice of the two psychologists. If he isn't, consult an expert in eating disorders.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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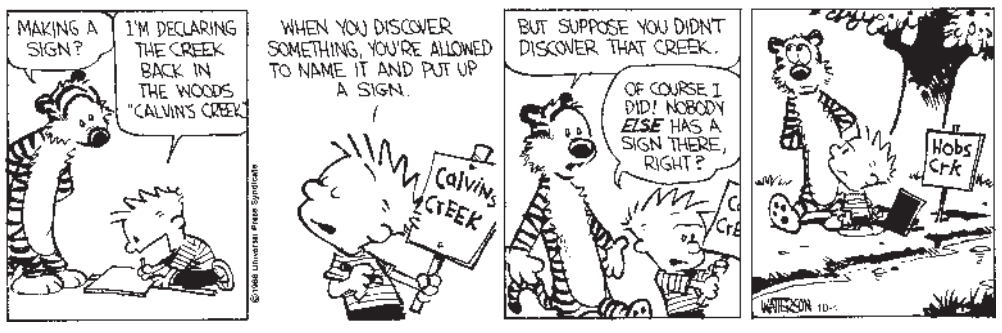
Pastimes

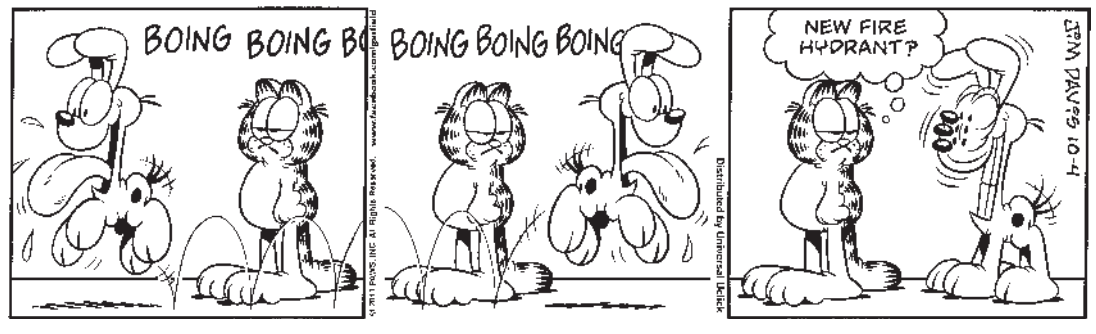
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MAKING A SIGN?
I'M DECLARING THE CREEK BACK IN THE WOODS "CALVIN'S CREEK."
WHEN YOU DISCOVER SOMETHING, YOU'RE ALLOWED TO NAME IT AND PUT UP A SIGN.
Calvin's Creek
BUT SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T DISCOVER THAT CREEK.
OF COURSE I DID! NOBODY ELSE HAS A SIGN THERE, RIGHT?
Hobs Crk
WATTERSON 10-4

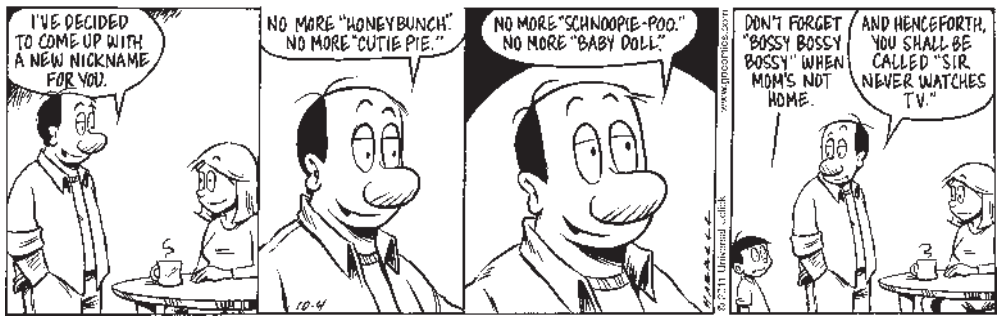
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'VE DECIDED TO COME UP WITH A NEW NICKNAME FOR YOU.
NO MORE "HONEYBUNCH." NO MORE "CUTIE PIE."
NO MORE "SCHNOOPIE-POO." NO MORE "BABY DOLL."
DON'T FORGET "BOSSY BOSSY BOSSY" WHEN MOM'S NOT HOME.
AND HENCEFORTH, YOU SHALL BE CALLED "SIR NEVER WATCHES TV."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

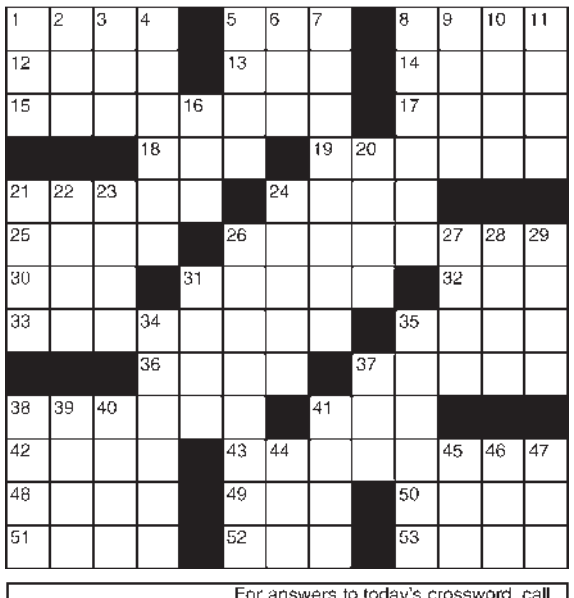
ACROSS
1 "Zounds!"
5 Not operating
8 Pump or oxford
12 Long story
13 Squeezing snake
14 Day fraction
15 Athletic awards
17 Deserve
18 Stone in a peach
19 Raspy
21 Induces ennui
24 Half-quart
25 Always
26 Long-short feet, in poetry
30 Started
31 Actor Michael
32 Conk out
33 Woes
35 Paddock papa
36 Requirement
37 Say
38 Carlsbad attraction
41 Sis' counterpart
42 Operatic solo
43 Streetcars of a sort
48 Slapstick arsenal
49 A billion years
50 Concept
51 Vortex
52 Place for 15-Across, maybe
53 "Cut it out!"

DOWN
1 Superlative suffix
2 Needlefish
3 Past
4 Sharply dressed
5 Last write-up
6 Adversary
7 Couturiers' styles
8 Scabbard
9 Frost
10 Yours and mine
11 Sea eagle
16 Towel designation
20 Formerly
21 Hit hard
22 Finished
23 Change the decor
24 Used a crowbar
26 Having a flair for
27 Rewrite, maybe
28 Green land
29 Crystal gazer
31 Trucker with a radio
34 "— lies the head ..."
35 Emotionless
37 Web address, for short
38 Part of a Superman costume
39 Saharalike
40 Fought (for)
41 German city
44 Fish eggs
45 Tokyo's old name
46 Longing
47 Took a chair

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	V	A		A	R	B	O	R		H	A	S
S	I	T		B	A	R	R	E		A	L	L
H	E	M	O	S	T	A	T	S		W	O	E
			B	O	A		H	O	O	K	E	D
T	S	H	I	R	T		O	R	B	S		
A	L	A		B	A	H		T	E	H	E	E
R	O	W	S		T	O	W		Y	A	R	D
O	T	T	E	R		P	E	G		W	A	D
		H	E	A	T		D	R	E	S	S	Y
S	C	O	R	C	H		G	A	G			
E	R	R		H	E	M	I	N	G	W	A	Y
G	U	N		E	M	B	E	D		A	N	A
O	D	E		L	E	A	S	E		G	Y	M

Yesterday's answer 10-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachael Leigh Cook, 32; Alicia Silverstone, 35; Christoph Waltz, 55; Susan Sarandon, 65.

Happy Birthday: Let your practical side surpass your creative side when dealing with partnerships and money matters. Look at each situation separately and leave no room for error. Change is necessary, but the way you go about it will determine the outcome. Take your time, do your research and strive for perfection. Your numbers are 5, 13, 16, 23, 27, 40, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): There is nothing you cannot accomplish if you are focused and willing to adapt to the changes being made. Don't let an emotional matter lead to a lack of productivity. Reevaluate and follow through with your plans and you will be successful. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't agree to something you may regret, and try not to overreact before getting all the facts. Put greater emphasis on research and you will avoid a situation that can put you in a vulnerable position professionally, as well as financially. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The quality of your work will lead to a better offer. A creative slant to a mundane project will set you apart from the competition. You can write your own ticket if you let your imagination run wild. A celebration will highlight your day. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Being too clingy will lead to a lack of devotion and affection from others. You will be disappointed with the outcome of any home or self-improvement you make today. It will be hard to handle inevitable changes. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take the initiative and do the work yourself. Bending to someone else's demands will be your downfall. Take action in order to remain in control. Your dedication, reserve and intelligence will help you get what you want. Less can be more. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Open up about your intentions, feelings and future plans. Honesty will allow you to wiggle your way into situations that being secretive could not. Rely on past experience, but don't let an emotional attachment hold you back. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional demands will be put on you if you refuse to discuss problems. You can run, but you cannot hide. Face controversy head-on so that you can move on. Your astuteness will bring you added respect and control. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Express your opinions and listen to the advice being offered. Apply the experience you've acquired from past relationships to help you size up your current situation and avoid making a mistake. Realize what you are worth and price what you have to offer accordingly. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Sell what you have to offer and you will get what you deserve. Your unique way of approaching friends, neighbors and relatives will allow you to overcome any adversity you face. Don't use brawn when brain is what's required. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will end up wasting time if you keep making the same mistake. Trust your own judgment and forget about the demands being put on you by others. You may have to take on more responsibility, but in the end you will gain experience and prosper. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't keep secrets that may incriminate you. It's vital to be upfront with potential partners. There are gains to be made if you are honest. Your ability to come up with solid and unique ideas will pay off. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will recognize what must be done to get what you want. Don't let your emotions stand in the way of a good decision. Confront someone from your past in order to avoid legal and financial repercussions in the future. Form a partnership. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, passionate, aggressive and quick to change direction.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		3		7		
	6			9			2	
			7		1			
		3	1		6	5		
7	4						6	1
		8	4		7	3		
			3		9			
	9			6			5	
		1		7		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	4	6	3	2	7	1	9
1	6	7	5	9	8	4	2	3
2	3	9	7	4	1	6	8	5
9	2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4
7	4	5	9	2	3	8	6	1
6	1	8	4	5	7	3	9	2
5	7	6	3	1	9	2	4	8
3	9	2	8	6	4	1	5	7
4	8	1	2	7	5	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOLECULAR GASTRONOMY **Solution: 6 letters**

E	E	C	E	A	F	F	E	C	T	R	A	I	N	T
N	F	V	H	S	R	L	U	F	R	O	L	O	C	E
F	O	F	I	E	U	C	A	N	V	A	S	A	N	S
L	P	I	E	T	M	O	D	E	S	A	R	I	O	T
A	H	Z	T	R	A	I	I	E	E	O	S	E	I	S
V	E	C	D	A	V	E	C	R	M	I	E	X	S	T
O	N	D	R	I	C	E	R	A	U	B	V	P	S	N
R	O	E	N	A	S	I	S	C	L	C	R	L	A	E
S	M	R	I	E	E	H	F	C	N	R	E	A	P	I
L	E	U	T	G	H	S	E	I	E	R	H	I	C	D
O	N	S	R	S	B	C	E	S	S	N	A	N	G	E
O	A	A	F	A	E	A	T	R	K	L	C	E	E	R
T	M	E	L	Y	T	S	S	I	U	O	U	E	L	G
S	H	M	O	D	E	R	N	I	K	P	O	M	S	N
C	O	O	K	I	N	G	S	O	C	I	A	L	E	I

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Affect, Aromas, Basic, Canvas, Chefs, Chemical, Colorful, Cooking, Creative, Cuisine, Curious, Dishes, Effervescence, Embrace, Emulsification, Explain, Flavors, Freeze, Gels, Grams, Herve, Ingredients, Kitchen, Labs, Learn, Look, Love, Measured, Modern, Passion, Phenomena, Pure, Reason, Research, Social, Style, Tastes, Test, Tools, Train

Yesterday's Answer: Dim Sum

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

09' White-Toyota Camry • Mileage-24,500 • Price-$15,500
09' Toyota Corrolla • Mileage-33,000 • Price-$12,500
Both in EXCELLENT condition! If interested Call 287-7676.

EMPLOYMENT

1-hairdresser or hairstylist
1-housekeeping or domestic helper
Submit resume at LKR Rosa Corp.
Katchu-Tataga St., San Antonio
Contact Rosa at tel.: 235-7850

US workers only. Optician, Medical Biller, Maint. & Repair Worker, Domestic Worker. Apply in person @ Marianas Eye Institute. No phone calls pls.

1 Barber, w/ 2 yrs experience, pleasing personality w/ good moral character. Inquiry, Call Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc. at 234-6378 or 234-9226.

3 fishermen bottom, trolling and diving. 6 mos. experience, minimum salary. Send resume to SFC P.O.Box 10005 Saipan, MP 96950

2-All Around Beauticians
Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop
San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440

1 Electronic Technician. $5.05-$6.50/hr & 1 Commercial Cleaner $5.05-$6.50/hr for inquiry call Cleo 234-9199. Champstar Trading Corporation

8 Janitors & Cleaners. Salary-$5.05-$5.50/hr. MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. Email resume to: admin@mtosaipan.com

EMPLOYMENT

2 Generator Techinician. Salary-$5.05 - $14.00/hr. Elliott Systems LLC. Email resume to: jeff@elliottsystemsllc.com

1-General Manager $1,800.00-$ 2,500.00/mo. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or BA . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 – Accountant $ 7.25-$ 13.00/hr. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1–Real Estate Appraiser $7.25 - $11.00/hr. Must be Licensed General Appraiser. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Office Manager $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 5 yrs exp in PII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

3–Bookkeepers $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 2 yrs exp of PII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1–Insurance Sales Agent $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ minimum 2 yrs experience . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution: Light a match

EMPLOYMENT

3–Janitors & Cleaners. Salary - $5.05 - $5.50/hr. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 General Manager $2,000.00-$2,500.00/mo. At least 5 years experience . Dae Dong Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Accountant $7.25 - $12.69/hr. Bachelors Degree in Accounting or BA. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 Travel Guide $7.25-$8.92/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Tour Guide Salary - $7.25-$8.00/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

2- Fisherman (Bottom / Trolling / Diving), at least 6 mos. experience required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

Wanted Commercial Cleaner
Must have 5+yrs. experience cleaning restaurants, businesses, and residences. Only US resident eligible need apply. Must be comfortable working around and cleaning up after dogs and cats, will do windows, not afraid of heights, with a green thumb. Call 256-1041 or 287-8347.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Avis Rent A Car is looking for highly motivated individuals with great customer service and a friendly and outgoing personality to fill the following positions:

- **Full Time Rental Sales Agent**
  - Japanese speaking preferred
  - Must have computer experience
- **On Call Part Time Automotive Service Detailer**

Applicants must possess a High School diploma or Equivalent, have a valid driver's license and be willing to work flexible hours.

All applications and resumes can be submitted to our Avis counter located at the Saipan International Airport. No phone calls please.

AVIS We try harder.

Grace Christian Academy Tinian Campus
is looking for:

2 Elementary School Teachers and 2 Junior High Teachers – Full Time
Qualifications:
- Must be a holder of Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years teaching experience, preferably in a Christian School
- Must be willing to submit previous employer reference (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the education/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must Adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside a classroom setting if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

1 School Custodian worker – Part Time – 25 hours per week
Qualifications:
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least 2 years experience as a school custodian having experience maintaining/overseeing all day to day facility operations of a school including grounds keeping, general building maintenance and various other school and student related responsibilities.
- Must be willing to submit previous employer references (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the educational/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside regular job duties if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

Applications may be downloaded at www.gca-nmi.com
Please submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy – Tinian / PO Box 520422 by mail or in person
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy Rota Campus
is looking for:

1 Preschool Teacher
Holder of high School Diploma and at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School

1 Elementary School Teacher
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School;
- Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
- Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;

Salary: $5.05/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy, Sinapalo 1, Rota, MP 96951
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy
is looking for:

Registrar (1)
Qualifications
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Proficient in computer skills: excel, Word, Photoshop;
Proficient in filing/record-keeping;
Communication skills: community, parents, various ethnic groups;
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.25

Pre-school teacher. (1)
Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably Early Childhood Education;
At least 2 years teaching experience in Early Childhood education, preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.05 - $7.71

Substitute Teacher (1)
Holder of a BA degree;
Must be flexible with substituting in any grade level;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Preferably ACSI certified.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.32

Bookkeeper (2)
Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably in Accounting;
At least 2 years experience preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Can work independently and less supervision;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Knowledge in School Minder/Accountrak programs preferred.
Salary: $5.05 - $8.58

Maintenance – Repairer
Must have at least 2 years experience as ground/building maintenance;
Must be at least high school graduate;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $7.89

2 Elementary School Teachers
1 Middle School Teacher
2 High School Teachers G9-G12)
Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; major in any one of these subjects for middle school and High school, Math, Science, English;
At least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.19 - $18.26/hour

Business Administrator:
Holder of Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in Accounting;
At least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity in the area of finance, and general services preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Must be able to direct and administer financial/administrative operations of the organization;
Must be able to formulate & implement financial policies and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
Must be able to prepare, analyze, and interpret financial reports;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $7.75 - $24.64/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed application to Grace Christian Academy, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
GCA is accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MATCH

WHATZIT® © 2011 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Venture Transportation Corp
is currently seeking a
FULL TIME AUTO MECHANIC
Maintain Fleet of 30+ cars
Clean Driving Record • Auto Mechanic s
Knowledge • Minimum of 5 Years experience
• Fluent in English and Japanese preferred
Fax resume to 288-3347 or mail to PMB 699
P.O. Box 100001 Saipan MP 96950

1-Architect
Degree required, 5yr. experience
utility residential design
ACAD v2011 proficient $10-$11/hr
Azuma Ltd. 256-6831

Vacancy Announcement
1- **Graphic Artist –** Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. 5 yrs experience. Proficient in Illustrator / Photoshop CS5.
5- **Screen Printers –** 2 yrs experience. Knowledge in screen printing equipment & machines. Able to work flexible hours.
Submit Application to
Saipan Apparel. Tel. 235-1680

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Call 235-6397

POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORP. is looking for:

- **CARPENTER (3 positions)** - With background and experience in structural construction, in plumbing & masonry.
- **ALL AROUND BEAUTICIAN (6 positions)** - Must have knowledge in all services provided in a Salon
- **MASSEUSE (3 positions)**
- **BOOK KEEPER (1 position)** - with Bachelor degree in Accounting and with background in financial preparation.

All applicants must have at least 2 years experience and must have excellent knowledge and skills on the category they are applying for.

APPLY IN PERSON AND BRING RESUME

"Any applicant tentatively selected for these positions are required to submit and pass a drug test screening prior to employment."

For more info please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5599, 483-1971 or 285-0019.

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE
and earn up to 20% to 50% commission. Please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 323-4455 or 483-1971.

3A'S POLYSHINE is looking for:

2 UPHOLSTERERS
- Considerable knowledge of the practices, methods, tools, materials, and equipment for upholstering.
- Some knowledge of the occupational hazards of upholstering work and of necessary safety precautions.
- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interiors of vehicles.
- Skill in the selection of upholstery materials and in use and care of upholstery tools and equipment.
- Salary: $5.05/hour (CNMI minimum wage)

2 TINTER (window film installer)
- Considerable knowledge of the industrial practices of adhesive window films installation.
- Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not afraid of heights.
- Ability to work independent with minimum supervision.
- Salary: $5.05/hour (CNMI minimum wage)

Interested individuals must be willing to undergo practical testing for position qualification. All interested applicants must submit resume before October 10, 2011 at 3A'S PLOYHSINE, Tel: 235-8938 located at Mike's Building, Beach Road, next to Car Quest Auto Parts, CK.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

TEACHING POSITIONS
- High School Advanced Placement English and Math
- High School Science (Physics and Chemistry)
- High School Mandarin

STAFF POSITIONS
- Office Manager
- General Cleaner

If interested bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International Schools. No telephone calls please.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – Satellite IT Technician / Safety Officer - $ 15.76/hr.
1 – Electronic Tech Maintenance II - $ 15.05/hr.
1 – Automotive Mechanic - $ 13.06/hr
2 – Engineering Technician I - $ 14.62/hr
1 – Power Plant Electrician - $ 14.99/hr
1 – Facilities Supervisor - $ 18.36/hr
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P.O. Box 506480 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 234-5080

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT-WINCHELL'S DONUTS

a. 1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage range $7.50 per hour and up, depending on qualifications. College level. Must have at least 5 years of continued experience in managing bakery or similar operations. Must be able to manage 15 or more people and more than 1 store. Must be computer literate. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

b. 3 vacancies for **Store Supervisor**. Wage range $5.25 to $7.50 per hour depending on qualifications. College level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

c. 8 vacancies for **Sales Associates**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

d. 6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location or email them to dennys@guam.net

CAFÉ at the PARK
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

Position:	(1) Chef
Salary:	$1,200-1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of eight years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Cook
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Supervisor, Dining/Restaurant
Salary:	$5.30 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Waiter/Waitress
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	Minimum of six months work-related experience. Positive attitude towards customers and knowledgeable about hygiene and safety standards.

You may pick up an application at Café at the Park,
across American Memorial Park.
P.O. Box 503007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 233-1010/1012

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
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Administrative Assistant
MUST HAVE
- Computer skills and be proficient in Microsoft Apps
- Strong general record keeping background & experience
- Student record keeping experience
- A minimum of 3 years experience in bookkeeping
- A clear understanding of Federal and CNMI tax laws
- A minimum of 3 years financial management experience
- The ability to prepare financial reports
- Effective communication skills with parents and students

Salary: $950.00 per month

Elementary Teacher
MUST HAVE
- A minimum of 3 years experience teaching upper elementary
- A strong background in and experience with Abeka Book Curriculum
- A Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education

Salary: $1,500.00 per month

Grounds Keeper and Maintenance
MUST HAVE
- At least a high diploma
- Ability to maintain large scale grounds and building operations
- Basic skills needed in general maintenance and repair
- Experience in overall industrial grounds maintenance
- Experience in overall industrial building maintenance

Salary: $890.00 per month

Cook
MUST HAVE
- Strong background in culinary skills
- Large scale meal preparations skills
- Dietary management skills
- Kitchen management experience
- Industrial kitchen experience

Salary: $828.00 per month

INDIVIDUALS APPLYING FOR AND WORKING IN THE ABOVE POSITIONS MUST
1. **Adhere to all church and school policies**
2. **Submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the church and school**
3. **BE ACTIVE and FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
4. **Provide his or her own housing, food, and transportation**

Interested applicants can come to the school and pick up an application.
Applications and resumes must be received before October 19, 2011.
Completed applications must be submited to Calvary Christian Academy in Chalan Kiya, Saipan
For further information please call 234-6026

GINEN SAIPAN
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

Position:	(1) Accountant
Salary:	$800 - $1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	Four year college diploma; minimum of eight years work-related experience; knowledgeable about Peachtree Accounting.
Position:	(1) Maintenance Building Repairer
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school graduate; minimum of two years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Electrician
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	College or vocation school diploma; minimum four years work-related experience.
Position:	(4) Construction Laborers
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of two years work-related experience.

You may pick up an application at Ginen Saipan,
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Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or a minimum of 3 years work related experience are required. Preferably with F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation experience. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Nihonngo or Korean language will be advantage. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by October 14, 2011. Applications may also be sent to: maxk@pticom.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

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FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

Lions comeback to beat Cowboys and remain perfect

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Matthew Stafford saw his defense start wiping out a 24-point deficit with interceptions returned for touchdowns midway through the third quarter, then he and Calvin Johnson took over from there, leading the Detroit Lions to a stunning 34-30 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

A week after turning a 20-point halftime deficit into an overtime win, the Lions provided further proof they're a legitimate contender this season.

Detroit is 4-0 and has won an NFL-best eight straight games. This also was its franchise-record fifth straight road win, avenging a loss here last November that had been its NFL-record 26th straight road loss.

Tony Romo and the Cowboys (2-2) continued to show there's no lead and no deficit too big for them. They blew a 14-point fourth-quarter lead for the first time in franchise history in the opener.

AP

Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford looks to pass against the Dallas Cowboys an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, in Arlington, Texas.

Packers 49, Broncos 23

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers threw for a career-high 408 yards, tied a personal best with four touchdown passes and ran for two more scores as Green Bay remained unbeaten.

Charles Woodson ran an interception back for a touchdown for the Packers (4-0), who join resurgent NFC North rivals Detroit as the only undefeated teams left in the NFL.

Eric Decker caught a pair of touchdowns from Kyle Orton for Denver (1-3). Orton threw for 273 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Bengals 23, Bills 20

In Cincinnati, rookie quarterback Andy Dalton shook off a horrid first half and led his first comeback victory, culminating in Mike Nugent's 43-yard field goal as time ran out against previously unbeaten Buffalo.

Dalton threw a touchdown pass and ran 3 yards on a draw play, tying it with 4:09 to go. He scrambled for a first down on the winning drive and Nugent ended it with his third field goal in front of the smallest crowd of Paul Brown Stadium's history.

The Bengals (2-2) overcame a 17-3 halftime deficit to end a 10-game losing streak against Buffalo (3-1).

49ers 24, Eagles 23

In Philadelphia, the 49ers surged back from a 20-point deficit for the victory.

Eagles quarterback Michael Vick wasn't hampered by his bruised right hand, throwing for a career-high 416 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 75 yards. But Philly's defense fell apart in the final 30 minutes, and Frank Gore capped a 77-yard drive with a 12-yard TD run with 3 minutes remaining.

Former Eagles kicker David Akers, who left for San Francisco as a free agent this summer, kicked the decisive extra point. His replacement, rookie Alex Henery, missed from 39 and 33 yards in the final period.

Philadelphia (1-3) has been outscored 36-0 in the fourth quarter of its last three games, all losses. The 49ers (3-1) are on top of the NFC West in Jim Harbaugh's rookie season as coach.

Texans 17, Steelers 10

In Houston, Arian Foster rushed for 155 yards and the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter as Houston overcame an injury to All-Pro Andre Johnson for the win.

Johnson left in the second quarter with a right hamstring injury and did not return though he was back on the sideline late to watch Houston (3-1) finish off the injury-plagued Steelers (2-2).

Ben Roethlisberger was under pressure all day and was sacked five times behind an offensive line missing two regular starters. The quarterback injured his left leg late in the game and left the stadium wearing a walking boot.

The Steelers lost running back Rashard Mendenhall (hamstring), linebacker James Harrison (eye) and defensive end Aaron Smith (foot) during the game.

Foster, the 2010 NFL rushing champion, finally looked healthy after weeks of nursing a left hamstring strain.

Patriots 31, Raiders 19

In Oakland, California, Tom Brady bounced back from a four-interception performance by throwing for 226 yards, two touchdowns and committing no turnovers.

Wes Welker caught nine passes for 158 yards and a score, BenJarvus Green-Ellis and Stevan Ridley adding rushing touchdowns and the Patriots (3-1) played a mostly mistake-free game after last week's surprising loss in Buffalo.

This time the interception that changed the game was made by New England instead of thrown by Brady. Patrick Chung got a gift-wrapped pick in the end zone late in the first half when Jason Campbell inexplicably threw the ball right to the safety with no receiver in the area for the Raiders (2-2).

Redskins 17, Rams 10

In St. Louis, Ryan Torain ran for 135 yards and a 20-yard score, and Washington held off a late rally by winless St. Louis.

The Redskins (3-1) dominated in defense and got two of their seven sacks late by Stephen Bowen and Brian Orakpo to knock the Rams (0-4) out of scoring position.

Titans 31, Browns 13

In Cleveland, Matt Hasselbeck's fresh start in Tennessee has his team off to an unexpected one.

The 13-year veteran quarterback, who left Seattle as a free agent after a playoff-filled decade, threw three TD passes in the first half and safety Jordan Babineaux returned an interception 97 yards for a TD for their third straight win under first-year coach Mike Munchak.

Hasselbeck threw for 194 yards in the first half while helping the Titans (3-1) build a 21-6 lead.

The 36-year-old finished 10 of 20 for 220 yards—26 on two completions after halftime.

Saints 23, Jaguars 10

In Jacksonville, Florida, Drew Brees threw for 351 yards and a touchdown, Darren Sproles added 188 yards and New Orleans improved to 3-1.

The Saints scored TDs on their first two possessions and looked well on their way to reaching 30 points for the fourth consecutive week. But Brees threw two interceptions, and the Saints were forced to settle for three field goals in the second half.

It didn't matter against the Jaguars (1-3), who have scored just 39 points this season. They have two touchdowns in rookie Blaine Gabbert's two starts.

Gabbert completed 16 of 42 passes for 196 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

Bears 34, Panthers 29

In Chicago, Devin Hester set an NFL record with his 11th punt return for a touchdown and Matt Forte ran for a career-high 205 yards for Chicago (2-2).

Hester had earlier set up a TD run by Forte with a 73-yard kickoff return before he ran back a punt 69 yards in the second quarter to move ahead of Eric Metcalf on the all-time list. He performed three somersaults in the end zone with the lead at 24-10, but the celebration was a little early.

The Panthers cut the lead to four points at halftime and had their chances to take the lead in the second half but came up short, spoiling coach Ron Rivera's return to Soldier Field.

Rookie Cam Newton threw for 374 yards for the Panthers (1-3) and Steve Smith passed Muhsin Muhammad as the team's leading receiver, finishing with 181 yards on eight catches. He now has 9,414 in his career.

Chargers 26, Dolphins 16

In San Diego, Philip Rivers threw for 307 yards and one touchdown and San Diego knocked out Miami quarterback Chad Henne.

Henne hurt his left shoulder at the end of a run on a broken play on the Dolphins' second possession and didn't return. Although backup Matt Moore led the Dolphins to the game's first TD, Rivers' passing eventually overpowered the Dolphins (0-4).

Rivers threw a 55-yard TD pass to Vincent Jackson to tie the game at 7 late in the first quarter. Ryan Mathews' 48-yard gain on a screen pass set up Mike Tolbert's 1-yard leap over the pile for a 20-10 lead for the Chargers (3-1) early in the third quarter.

Falcons 30, Seahawks 28

In Seattle, Matt Ryan threw for 291 yards, rookie Julio Jones caught 11 passes for 127 yards, and Atlanta held off a second-half rally by Seattle.

Ryan was brilliant in the first half. He started out 13-for-15 and had a 1-yard touchdown pass to Tony Gonzalez on Atlanta's first possession. Michael Turner also ran for TDs of 21 and 1 yards in the first half.

Matt Bryant's 50-yard field goal early in the third quarter gave Atlanta (2-2) a 27-7 lead.

Tarvaris Jackson threw for three TDs, but the Seahawks (1-3) couldn't complete the comeback, and Steven Hauschka missed a 61-yard field goal attempt with 13 seconds left.

Giants 31, Cardinals 27

In Glendale, Arizona, Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes in a 58-second span late in the game to rally New York.

The scoring passes of 2 yards to Jake Ballard with 3:37 to go and 29 yards to Hakeem Nicks with 2:39 left came after the Cardinals (1-3) seemingly had taken control of the game 27-17 on Beanie Wells' third rushing touchdown of the game with 5:16 to go.

Manning completed 7 of 8 for 126 yards on the decisive drives as the Giants (3-1) won their third in a row. He finished 27 of 40 for 371 yards. Nicks caught 10 for 162 yards.

Wells rushed for a career-best 138 yards.

Chiefs 22, Vikings 17

In Kansas City, Matt Cassel hit Dwayne Bowe for a 52-yard fourth-quarter touchdown pass, Ryan Succop was perfect on five field-goal attempts and the Chiefs won its first this season.

Succop's accurate right leg had already staked Kansas City (1-3) to a 15-10 lead by the start of the fourth quarter when Cassel dropped back to pass. He saw Bowe get around Cedric Griffin, who had slipped just after the snap, and hit his Pro Bowl wide receiver in stride.

Bowe made a pirouette to get around safety Jamarca Sanford, then broke Griffen's tackle as the cornerback tried to recover, and trotted the last couple of yards for the touchdown.

Minnesota is 0-4.

Ravens 34, Jets 17

In Baltimore, the Ravens scored three touchdowns on defense, all off turnovers by New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, and cruised to victory in a bizarre game that featured an NFL-record five returns for scores.

Baltimore's three touchdowns on defense were the most in franchise history. Jameel McClain took a fumble by Sanchez 6 yards for a score on New York's first offensive play, Jarret Johnson scored on a 26-yard fumble return and Lardarius Webb put the Ravens up 34-17 in the third quarter by taking an interception 73 yards into the end zone.

New York (2-2) has lost seven straight to the Ravens (3-1).

Valverde, Tigers stop Yanks in 9th, tie series

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Valverde and the Detroit Tigers nearly let this one slip away.

Instead, they're on solid footing with ace Justin Verlander set to start back home at Comerica Park.

The Tigers and their excitable closer somehow held off the Yankees' furious rain-soaked rally in the ninth inning and Detroit beat New York 5-3 on Sunday, evening their best-of-five AL playoff series at one game apiece.

Down 5-1, the Yankees scored twice in the ninth and had a chance to win it after Detroit catcher Alex Avila lost his balance on the slick on-deck circle while chasing Curtis Granderson's two-out foul popup.

"It's tough to win games here, especially in the playoffs," Avila said. "You get what you can and get ready for the next game and that's all you can think about."

After his pop landed untouched, Granderson walked. With two on, Robinson Cano came to the plate.

Cano, who hit a grand slam and had six RBIs as the Yankees won the opener, wiped away raindrops from his helmet while Valverde tried to get a good grip.

With the crowd roaring, Cano hit a routine groundball to end it.

"All of a sudden, against anybody—but particularly against a team like them with the short porch in right field—it was not a good feeling," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "But it worked out OK."

Tigers starter Max Scherzer pitched no-hit ball into the sixth before Cano blooped an opposite-field single to left.

Miguel Cabrera's two-run homer in the first off Freddy Garcia gave Scherzer an early edge, and the Tigers took a 4-0 lead into the eighth.

Granderson hit a solo homer off Tigers reliever Joaquin Benoit in the eighth. Pretty soon, the rain—and all the drama—filled Yankee Stadium.

"Today, we proved that we can compete. (Monday) is going to be a different story," Benoit said. "We go home, we're going to play in our home ballpark, which is a little bit more fair."

Game 3 is Monday at Detroit. In a rematch, of sorts, CC Sabathia is scheduled to start against Verlander, a 24-game winner. The two All-Stars faced each other in the series opener Friday night, but the game was suspended after only 1 1/2 innings because of rain.

The Yankees lost three of four this year at Detroit and are 22-25 at Comerica Park since it opened in 2000. It's one of only two AL stadiums where New York has a losing record.

"The mentality here is everything is high, we feel good, and we just lost a tough one here today," said Nick Swisher, who homered on Valverde's first pitch.

Playing on the scheduled travel day, the Tigers now fly home with a chance to take command of the series, just as they did in 2006, when they lost the opener in New York before sweeping three straight.

Planning on playing two more days in a row in Detroit, Yankees manager Joe Girardi did not use his top late-game relievers, Rafael Soriano and Dave Robertson, and Detroit added a run in the ninth on Don Kelly's RBI single off Luis Ayala for a 5-1 lead.

"Being down three runs, and you know what Valverde has done all year long, we decided to go to Ayala," Girardi said.

Valverde entered in the ninth with a four-run lead. He led the majors in going 49 of 49 in save chances this year, and the Tigers were a perfect 83-0 this season when taking an edge into the ninth.

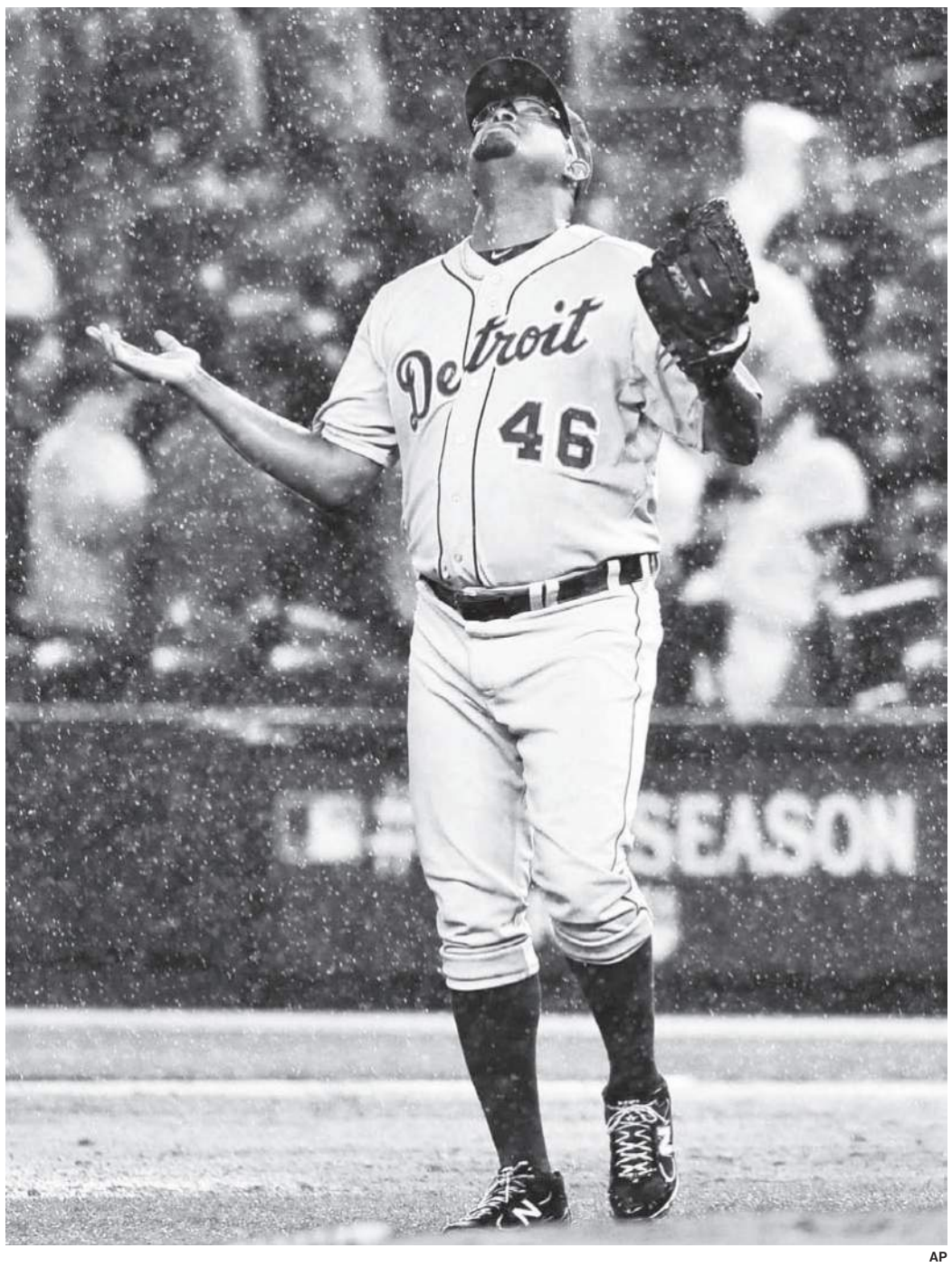
But this was not a save situation for Valverde, and he was far from perfect.

"It's a little hard. That's what happens sometimes," Valverde said.

Swisher began the comeback with a drive over the right-field wall. Jorge Posada followed with the first career postseason triple and Russell Martin walked. With the crowd rooting for a rally, Andruw Jones hit a sacrifice fly that made it 5-2.

"We always have faith," Posada said.

Derek Jeter struck out as the rain that has hounded this playoff series from the start returned in buckets. Granderson then lifted his foul pop near the Detroit dugout and Avila tracked it.



AP

Detroit Tigers pitcher Jose Valverde celebrates the Tigers' 5-3 win over the New York Yankees in Game 2 of baseball's American League division series on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

But the All-Star catcher slipped on the mat sporting the Yankees' logo, lost his balance and had no play.

"I was looking to see where the railing was, and I hit the on-deck circle and my foot went right underneath me," Avila said. "I couldn't recover after that."

Given another chance, Granderson drew a walk that sent him to first base as the tying run.

Cano and Valverde both did their best to stay dry—the Yankees' star asked for a towel to wipe off his helmet, the Tigers' relief ace tried to tuck away the ball in his glove.

Valverde won this matchup, retiring Cano on an easy grounder to second base.

Cabrera took advantage of the short right field porch in the Bronx to give Detroit a 2-0 lead. The AL's top hitter this year added an RBI single in a two-run second that began with a throwing error by Jeter.

Brewers 9, Diamondbacks 4

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Lucroy drove in the winning run and the Milwaukee Brewers showed they could bunt as well as bash, breaking away from the Arizona Diamondbacks to take a 2-0 lead in their NL division series.

Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer and fellow slugger Prince Fielder added an RBI single for Milwaukee.

Lucroy's safety squeeze keyed a five-run sixth inning, and came right after Diamondbacks reliever Brad Ziegler became angry about a balk call.

With the score 4-all and runners at the corners with one out, Jerry Hairston Jr. took a couple of half-steps and sprinted home as Lucroy bunted toward first base. Ziegler's awkward flip went wide of catcher Miguel Montero and the Diamondbacks imploded from there, with Milwaukee taking a 9-4 lead.

Brewers starter Zack Greinke struggled in his first postseason appearance, giving up three home runs and leaving without a decision. He was 11-0 at Miller Park, helping the Brewers win a majors-best 57 games at home.

The Brewers now hold a 2-0 lead in a postseason series for the first time in franchise history. Game 3 is Tuesday at Arizona.

Cardinals 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning after Cliff Lee blew a four-run lead, and the Cardinals rallied past the Philadelphia Phillies to even their NL playoff matchup at one game each.

After chipping away for a few innings, the Cardinals took the lead in the seventh. Allen Craig led off with a triple off center fielder Shane Victorino's glove. A three-time Gold Glove winner, Victorino misplayed the ball. He had to go a long way to make the catch, but overran it and the ball bounced off his glove.

Pujols, who struck out in his previous two at-bats, lined a single over drawn-in shortstop Jimmy Rollins to give St. Louis a 5-4 lead.

Lee gave up five runs and 12 hits, striking out nine in six-plus innings, to lose his third straight playoff start.

Down 4-0, the Cardinals started their rally in the fourth. Berkman walked and Yadier Molina hit a one-out infield single. Theriot sliced an RBI double down the right-field line and Jay followed with an RBI single to get St. Louis within 4-2.

Rafael Furcal followed with a line-drive single to left. Theriot scored and Jay came rumbling around the bases. Ibanez made a perfect one-hop throw and the ball arrived along with Jay. He slammed into Ruiz, his left forearm knocking the stocky catcher backward. But Ruiz held to temporarily prevent the tying run from scoring.

The series shifts to St. Louis for Game 3 on Tuesday.

Kevin Na wins in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Kevin Na won the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title, birdieing Nos. 15-17 to pull away for a two-stroke victory over Nick Watney.

The 28-year-old Na closed with a 6-under 65 for a tournament-record 23-under 261 total at TPC Summlerin in the Fall Series opener. Watney, a two-time winner this year, shot a 67.

Tied for the lead with Watney entering the round, Na sealed the breakthrough victory with a 42-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th. Na and Watney both parred the par-4 18th.

"I'm just very excited about my first win," said Na, who starting playing golf a year after his family moved to the United States from South Korea when he was 8. "It wasn't easy. Nick was coming right behind me. It looked like any time he was going to make a move, and I tried the best that I could to stay one step ahead of him. I think the putt on 17 basically sealed the deal for me."

The winner had five birdies and a bogey on the front nine to reach 21 under. He parred the first four holes on the back nine, then dropped a stroke on the par-3 14th to fall into a tie with Watney.

"I hit a terrible shot on 14," Na said. "I should have backed off. I always back off, but I felt, 'I'm going to hit this.' And I hit a terrible shot and made bogey.

"To bounce back after that bogey, to hit that chip to 3 feet—I had a great chip from down there—I was able to relax a little bit. Then I had a great two-putt for birdie on the next hole. It gave me a one-shot lead. I told myself par, par, you're going to win this golf tournament."

Na pulled ahead with his birdie on the par-4 15th and both players birdied the par-5 16th.

"Fifteen was definitely disappointing to not make birdie," Watney said. "I would love to have that bunker shot back. ... Sixteen, I played very nice. Seventeen, I hit a good shot then he made a 40-footer. That kind of stuff happens when you win. It's tough to beat. "One thing I relearned this week was how serious I was taking it, how badly I wanted to play well the last couple of months. That doesn't always translate into good golf, so this week I came here with no expectations. I took it very easy and played pretty nice."

Tommy Gainey and Paul Goydos had 68s to tie for third at 18 under, and David Hearn (65), Carl Pettersson (68), Jhonattan Vegas (68), Tim Herron (69) and Spencer Levin (68) followed at 17 under.

Na and Watney broke the record by two strokes in the event that switched from 90 to 72 holes in 2004.

"This golf course you have to get off to a good start," said Na, who earned $792,000. "The reason why is because like all the guys out here say, 'You have to go low, and if you're not making birdies, somebody else is.' So, if you're even par through six you feel like you're two shots behind everybody, and it puts more pressure into your back nine.

"I was able to get off to a great start and stay ahead of the game, and I think that was the key for me to be cruising through to the victory. The third hole, I made it off the fringe and I said, 'I'm 3 under through four; this is looking really good.'"

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,243-yard, par-71 TPC Summerlin.

FINAL

Kevin Na, $792,000	67-63-66-65–261
Nick Watney, $475,200	65-67-64-67–263
Tommy Gainey, $255,200	67-67-64-68–266
Paul Goydos, $255,200	66-66-66-68–266
David Hearn, $149,160	69-67-66-65–267
Tim Herron, $149,160	65-66-67-69–267
Spencer Levin, $149,160	68-67-64-68–267
Carl Pettersson, $149,160	66-67-66-68–267
Jhonattan Vegas, $149,160	63-67-69-68–267
Ben Crane, $97,533	67-67-68-66–268
Scott Piercy, $97,533	67-65-70-66–268
Kris Blanks, $97,533	66-65-66-71–268
Hunter Haas, $97,533	71-61-72-64–268
Bryce Molder, $97,533	68-66-67-67–268
Kyle Stanley, $97,533	69-64-69-66–268
Billy Horschel, $61,726	66-66-70-67–269
Kevin Streelman, $61,726	66-66-69-68–269
Charlie Wi, $61,726	64-66-72-67–269
Robert Garrigus, $61,726	66-68-63-72–269
William McGirt, $61,726	63-69-68-69–269
Brendan Steele, $61,726	66-65-69-69–269
Roland Thatcher, $61,726	68-68-63-70–269
Stephen Ames, $38,060	71-67-65-67–270
Steven Bowditch, $38,060	67-69-66-68–270
Chad Campbell, $38,060	71-67-66-66–270
David Duval, $38,060	66-71-64-69–270
Nick O'Hern, $38,060	71-67-63-69–270
Kevin Stadler, $38,060	68-70-65-67–270
Kevin Kisner, $28,600	70-66-67-68–271
Bill Lunde, $28,600	70-66-66-69–271
Billy Mayfair, $28,600	67-70-68-66–271
Alex Prugh, $28,600	67-68-67-69–271
Boo Weekley, $28,600	67-65-71-68–271
Woody Austin, $22,220	68-69-66-69–272
Harrison Frazar, $22,220	65-69-67-71–272
Nathan Green, $22,220	64-72-67-69–272
Trevor Immelman, $22,220	67-67-69-69–272
Rod Pampling, $22,220	65-70-66-71–272
Garrett Willis, $22,220	65-68-68-71–272
Jonathan Byrd, $15,420	71-66-67-69–273
Bob Estes, $15,420	66-70-68-69–273
Brian Gay, $15,420	67-67-69-70–273
Martin Laird, $15,420	70-66-66-71–273
Tag Ridings, $15,420	69-68-67-69–273
Briny Baird, $15,420	68-69-69-67–273
Kevin Chappell, $15,420	69-67-70-67–273
Bobby Gates, $15,420	68-67-67-71–273
Charley Hoffman, $15,420	71-66-70-66–273
Jason Bohn, $11,117	70-66-67-71–274
Steve Flesch, $11,117	65-70-71-68–274
Joe Ogilvie, $11,117	68-66-67-73–274
Michael Bradley, $10,261	69-66-69-71–275
Greg Chalmers, $10,261	68-68-69-70–275
Ben Curtis, $10,261	69-68-70-68–275
Cameron Percy, $10,261	68-69-72-66–275
Tim Petrovic, $10,261	67-70-70-68–275
Blake Adams, $9,724	65-70-69-72–276
Joseph Bramlett, $9,724	70-66-70-70–276
Steve Elkington, $9,724	67-69-72-68–276
Derek Lamely, $9,724	65-71-68-72–276
Rocco Mediate, $9,724	67-71-68-70–276
Josh Teater, $9,724	71-64-70-71–276
Aron Price, $9,416	68-70-69-70–277
Arjun Atwal, $9,196	66-70-69-73–278
Ricky Barnes, $9,196	70-68-70-70–278
John Merrick, $9,196	67-71-71-69–278
Vaughn Taylor, $9,196	65-69-68-76–278
D.J. Brigman, $8,888	67-66-72-74–279
Scott McCarron, $8,888	71-65-70-73–279
Will Strickler, $8,888	66-70-73-70–279
Nate Smith, $8,668	67-68-74-72–281
Paul Stankowski, $8,668	67-71-71-72–281
Cameron Beckman, $8,492	72-64-73-73–282
Cameron Tringale, $8,492	66-71-72-73–282

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

General membership meeting on Oct. 8

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball Inc.'s general membership meeting for the upcoming 2012 season will be held at 9am on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the pavilion adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

All active members, managers, coaches, umpires board members, and parents are encouraged to attend.

In addition, the SLLB this year will be collecting a $5 membership fee, which is required in order to participate in the board election.

The election takes place next week and all interested individuals are welcome.

Last season, the SLLB played musical chairs for the presidential seat.

In the end board member Annie Flores served as acting president, however, before her Robert Guerrero was initially voted in during the general membership meeting held before the start of the season.

Being an active umpire, Guerrero stepped down at season's start and board member Claudia Leon-Guerrero tended to the responsibility. Then around the start of the playoffs, Flores appeared and claimed the title of acting president.

All the while, others claimed that Tony Rogolifoi was voted in as president in a separate meeting held at mid-season during the time of limbo.

As a result of management woes, Little Leaguers reluctantly waited four months after completion of the season to receive their trophies.

Moreover, opening day was postponed by a week at the start of the season, uniforms came in late, the electronic scoreboard did not work, and the SLLB was also routinely endured scheduling issues with umpires throughout the season.

BAYANI

From Page 28

wing, was slightly bumped by Kae Bernardo, stopped and pulled up for a 10-footer, banking it in.

Estolas' clutch basket gave Mobil the lead, 106-105, and with the clock ticking Cabalen went for a quick inbound with Bart Demapan receiving an outlet from Lerio Pagarao. However, Demapan, who was at the right baseline a few steps away from the basket, was not squared off for the pass and slid his right foot while bending down to get the ball. White caught Demapan's foot stepping on the baseline and called the infraction. Noni players and supporters went ballistic after the crucial call and in the end White had heard enough and charged Bernardo a technical foul.

The violation gave Mobil two free throws and possession and even before Estolas could have taken the bonus shots, Cabalen players started leaving the court in protest of the previous call. Estolas drilled the two charities, upping their lead to three, 108-105, with 8.3 seconds left on the clock.

Officials still gave Cabalen a few minutes to return to the court, but only Pagarao stayed and Jun Pantaleon and Rex Yabut remained on the bench, while majority of their teammates were already at the parking lot of the facility. Larry Sharry made an uncontested layup to complete Mobil's come-from-behind win and join Namfrel/Proa in the semifinals

Mobil pulled off the five-point victory despite falling behind by nine, 94-103, with 2:27 left on the clock. The ever-reliable Estolas carried Mobil in the homestretch, scoring eight points in the closing minutes, while Gyles Ruluked added four, and Factor nailed two pressure-packed free throws.

Cabalen had a chance to wrap up the match in the last two minutes, but collapsed when it went 2-for-4 from the foul line and was without a field goal in the last 2:27 of the match.

The win over Cabalen avenged Mobil's 87-97 loss to the former in the regular season. Cabalen is now eliminated.

Meanwhile, league officials will meet this week to discuss Cabalen's walkout.

Cavite/Andok's 127, UPAA/Hoops 85

In the first playoff game, Cavite/Andok's stunned second-ranked UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics.

Cavite capitalized on the Hoops' depleted crew to cruise to an easy win. The Hoops played with only six players.

Despite their limited manpower, the Hoops still managed to have a strong start and led, 35-22, after the opening quarter. The Hoops connected on four triples and Dave Sablan tallied 14 markers for their double-digit lead.

However, the Hoops' offense slowed down beginning in the second period and from there Cavite took over en route to the big 42-point win. Cavite outgunned the Hoops in the last three quarters, 35-13, 30-14, and 40-23, to advance to the semifinals.

Freddie Pelisamen paced Cavite with 32 points, while Pando Muleta added 22. Peter Camacho and Mike Umali chipped in 15 each, Joy Dayrit contributed 14, and J.R. Montano scored 13 off the bench.

First Game

Cavite/Andok's 127 – Pelisamen 32, Muleta 22, Camacho 15, Umali 15, Dayrit 14, Montano 13, Wesley 7, Olaitiman 6.

UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics 85 – D. Sablan 39, Villacrusis 16, Mendez 11, Villagomez 8, Lee 6, Cabrera 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-35, 57-48, 87-62, 127-85.

Second Game

Bayani/Mobil 110 – Estolas 40, Ruluked 24, Gamboa 15, Lizama 12, Fernando 9, Factor 6, Sharry 2, De Guzman 2.

Cabalen/Noni 105 – Bernardo 41, Demapan 14, Basila 13, Pagarao 12, Abuel 12, Yabut 7, Tamayo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 51-44, 75-79, 110-105.

GUINTU

From Page 28

ping Saul Gargallo and Quiambao, 21-19, 18-21, 23-21.

Choi figured in her third championship match when she joined Mario Diola in battling Guintu and Sook in the mixed doubles 40-and-above division finals. The championship went the distance with Choi and Diola winning, 15-21, 21-19, 21-15.

Completing this year's list of champions were Kim Boranah and Joel Ortega, who were the first ones to win the competition after prevailing over Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos in the Class C finals last Saturday, 21-4, 21-14,

Medals were given to the Top 4 finishers in each division during the awards ceremony last Sunday night.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lions comeback to beat Cowboys and remain perfect
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Bayani/Mobil eliminates Cabalen/Noni

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bayani/Mobil stole the semis seat from Cabalen/Noni after eking out a 110-105 victory in their walkout-marred playoff game in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup on Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Mobil won the match in the last 25.1 seconds, climbing back from a nine-point deficit, while Cabalen/Noni lost its composure down the homestretch after committing two costly turnovers and a crucial technical foul.

Wowie Abuel was charged with the first miscue when he challenged the defense of Jun Estolas and attempted a spin move from the right shaded lane. Abuel drilled the basket, but it was nullified, as referee Gabriel White called a traveling violation on the Noni guard.

With the infraction, Mobil was given back possession with Noni ahead by only a hair, 105-104, 25.1 seconds left on the clock.

Before the Noni error, Leo Factor made it a one-point game, 104-105, after canning two charities. Factor was fouled when Banjo Basila pushed him off while trying to fight a screen for Estolas at the right corner.

Both teams sued for time in the last 25 seconds of the fourth quarter and when game resumed, Mobil went to its moneyman—Estolas. The veteran guard then called for an isolation play from the top key, drove to the right

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani/Mobil's Jun Estolas bumps first into the defense of Cabalen/Noni's Kae Bernardo before making the crucial bank shot that gave his team the lead in the closing seconds of their playoff game in the UFO Bud Cup last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

NMASA disappointed on MOU cancellation

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association expressed disappointment on the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' decision to rescind a three-party memorandum of understanding that gave Northern Marianas Athletics the power to operate and manage the track and field facility and three other venues inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

"NMASA is disappointed that the Secretary of DCCA took unilateral action to terminate the MOU without even attempting to consult with other parties, including NMASA, in the effort to resolve any concerns which he may have had," NMASA president Mike White.

White

NMASA was one of the three parties that signed the MOU last April this year. DCCA, through a letter forwarded to NMASA and NMA nullified the MOU, citing the agreement conflicts with the NMHC block grant condition and the contract between the government agency and a visiting Korean baseball team.

The cancellation of the MOU was not illegal, as section 20 of the agreement stated any party can terminate the deal with or without cause.

However, NMASA believed DCCA's decision is against the interest of the CNMI sports community.

"We do not believe that this action was in the best interest of the CNMI sporting community, and in particular, the many people who use the Oleai facilities," White said.

Besides NMA, the track facility is used by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, a group who plays ultimate frisbee, and walkers/runners. NMIFA in the past did the cleaning and bush-cutting of the pitch, while NMA after signing the MOU and drafting the final rules and regulations on the usage of the facilities, which include the weight room, office space, and restrooms, has also started cleaning the venues. Health buffs also use the weight room and pays $1 per visit, while the LG Twins also hold their regular fall baseball training here and are charged with usage fee.

NMASA has a say on the maintenance and operation of the facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex as stated in PL No. 4-66 approved by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio during the 4th Legislature in 1984. However, for more than two decades, the Division of Sports and Recreation, which is under DCCA, has taken charge of the Oleai facilities.

Now, NMASA is hoping a new legislation and approved budget will help the group enforce its rights in taking over the facilities.

"NMASA is fully aware of its statutory responsibility to operate and manage the Oleai Sports Complex. NMASA is committed to the objective of obtaining a budget, which will enable it to fulfill that responsibility," White said.

Guintu, Choi rule mixed doubles A

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dick Guintu and Hannah Choi handed Angie Ito and Andrew Galvez their lone loss in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic en route to winning the mixed doubles Class A championship last Sunday at the TSL Sports.

Guintu and Choi needed three games to stun the then undefeated Ito and Galvez in the finals. The first game went down-to-the-wire with Choi and Guintu escaping with a 22-20 victory. In the second game, Ito and Galvez regrouped and pulled off the win in another close tiff, 21-18. However, Galvez and Ito lost steam in the deciding Game 3, which Guintu and Choi dominated, 21-13.

Before their finals loss, Galvez and Ito won all their seven games in the elimination round, while Guintu and Choi finished the round-robin competition with a 6-1 record. Ito and Galvez went on to automatically advance to the finals, while Choi and Guintu had to win two playoff games to make it to the championship match.

The eventual champions defeated the tandems of Malou Malasarte and Hapi Gabriel and Ferdie Arago and Lani Bartolome to book the second finals berth. Arago and Bartolome were forced to play in the consolation game and lost the third place to Macou Aguda and Marlene Peraja, who survived their foes in three sets, 19-21, 21-15, 21-18.

In the Class AB finale, Guintu and Choi found themselves on opposite sides with the former teaming up with Toshiko Obata and the latter joining forces with Gary Bandoja. Choi went on to clinch her second championship, as she and Bandoja swept Obata and Guintu, 21-18, 21-13.

Arago and Annette Quiambao took the third place award after beating Robert Reyes and Malou Malasarte in the consolation game, 21-12, 21-18.,

Bandoja duplicated Choi's feat when he partnered with Heo In Sook in downing Oh Imbog and Obata in the Class B finals. Bandoja and Sook won the opening game, 21-13, but failed to wrap up the match early when Imbog and Obata recovered in the second game, 21-19. In the third game, it was Bandoja and Sook's turn to bounce back and pull off a 21-15 triumph to claim the championship.

Lito Mendoza and Marylyn Montano placed third in Class B after top-

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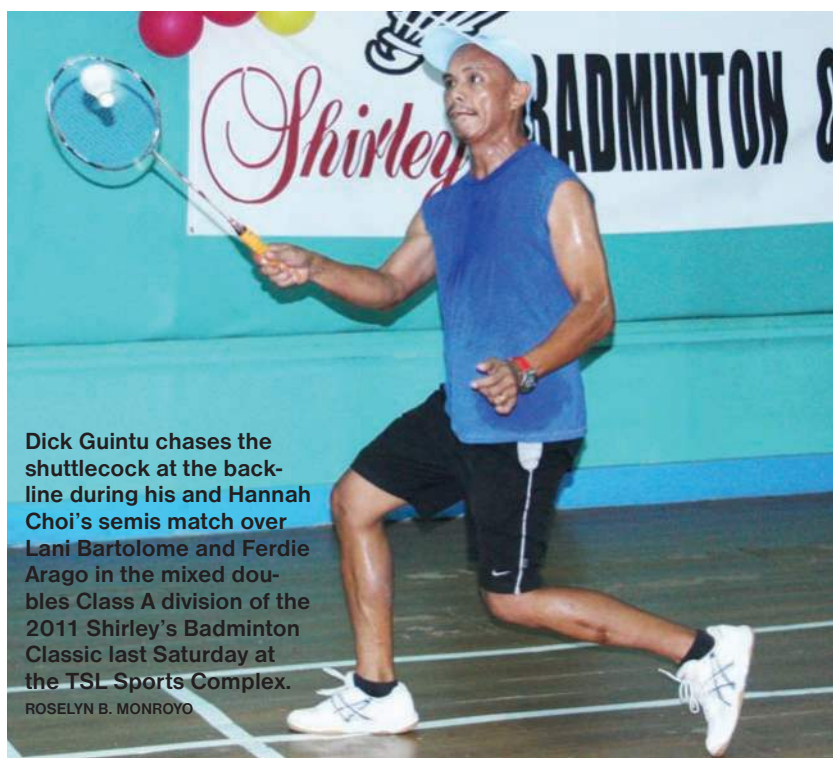

Dick Guintu chases the shuttlecock at the backline during his and Hannah Choi's semis match over Lani Bartolome and Ferdie Arago in the mixed doubles Class A division of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO